

B 445114 DUPL

FEB 15 1910

STORAGE

1102





W. B. Wilson

W. B. Wilson

GRAND COMMANDER, 1880-1881.

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONCLAVE

—OF THE—

Free Masons, Mich

Grand Commandery

—OF—

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

OF MICHIGAN

Held at Grand Rapids, May 21-22, A. D. 1889, A. O. 771

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.:
DEAN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY
1889

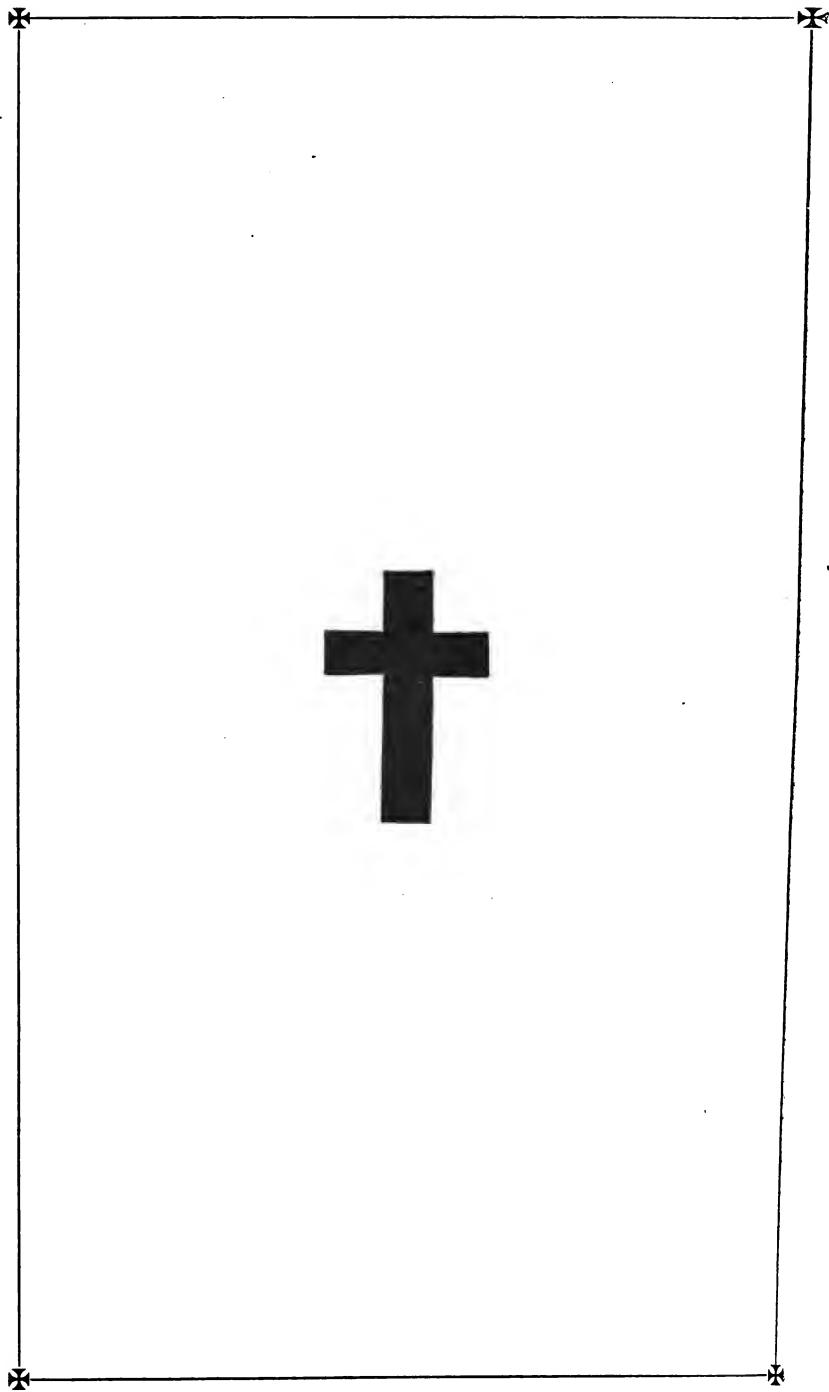


Table of Contents.

	PAGE.
A	
Annual conclave.....	I
Address of Grand Commander.....	8-22
Amendment to constitution—resolution by Sir Knight CONOVER..	34
Annual returns—recapitulation of.....	49-53
C	
Conclave—annual meeting	I
Committee on credentials—appointment of.....	2
Committee on credentials—report of.....	2- 7
Committee on division and reference.....	22
Correspondence—special report on.....	25
Committees—special.....	27-28
Charters and dispensations—report of committee on.....	30
Committee on ritual—report of	31
Committee on triennial—report of	31-32
Correspondence—report submitted.....	34
Constitution—amendment to.....	34
Closing.....	43-44
D	
Division and reference—committee on.....	22
Division and reference—report of special committee on.....	26-27
Date of organization, etc.....	62-66
E	
Election of officers—special order.....	28
Expulsions.....	48
Elected officers since organization.....	55-59
F	
Financial—annual reports submitted.....	26
Finance—report of committee on.....	29
G	
Grand officers present.....	I
GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.....	8-22
Opening	8- 9

	PAGE.
Waived jurisdiction.....	9
Decisions	9-10
Wyoming and Montana	10
Edict of Grand Master.....	10-12
Dispensations	13-14
Dispensations refused.....	14
Templar dead.....	14
Official visits.....	15-18
Invasion of jurisdiction	18-19
Adrian commandery vs. Ann Arbor commandery.....	19-20
Conclusion.....	20-22
GRAND RECORDER'S REPORT.....	23-24
Opening	23
Annual proceedings.....	23
Jewel.....	23
Grand Encampment tax.....	23
Record	23-24
Grand Encampment	24
Greeting to Kentucky	26
Greeting from Kentucky.....	33
I	
Inspection of subordinate commanderies.....	35-36
Installation of officers.....	43
J	
Jurisprudence—report on.....	34
Joint report of committee on jurisprudence and subordinate returns	42-43
K	
Kentucky—greeting to	26
Kentucky—greeting from.....	33
L	
Laying corner-stone of masonic home	7
M	
Meeting—time of.....	42
Memorial tablets	68-74
N	
Next place of meeting—appointment of committee to select.....	27
Next place of meeting—report of committee on.....	37-38

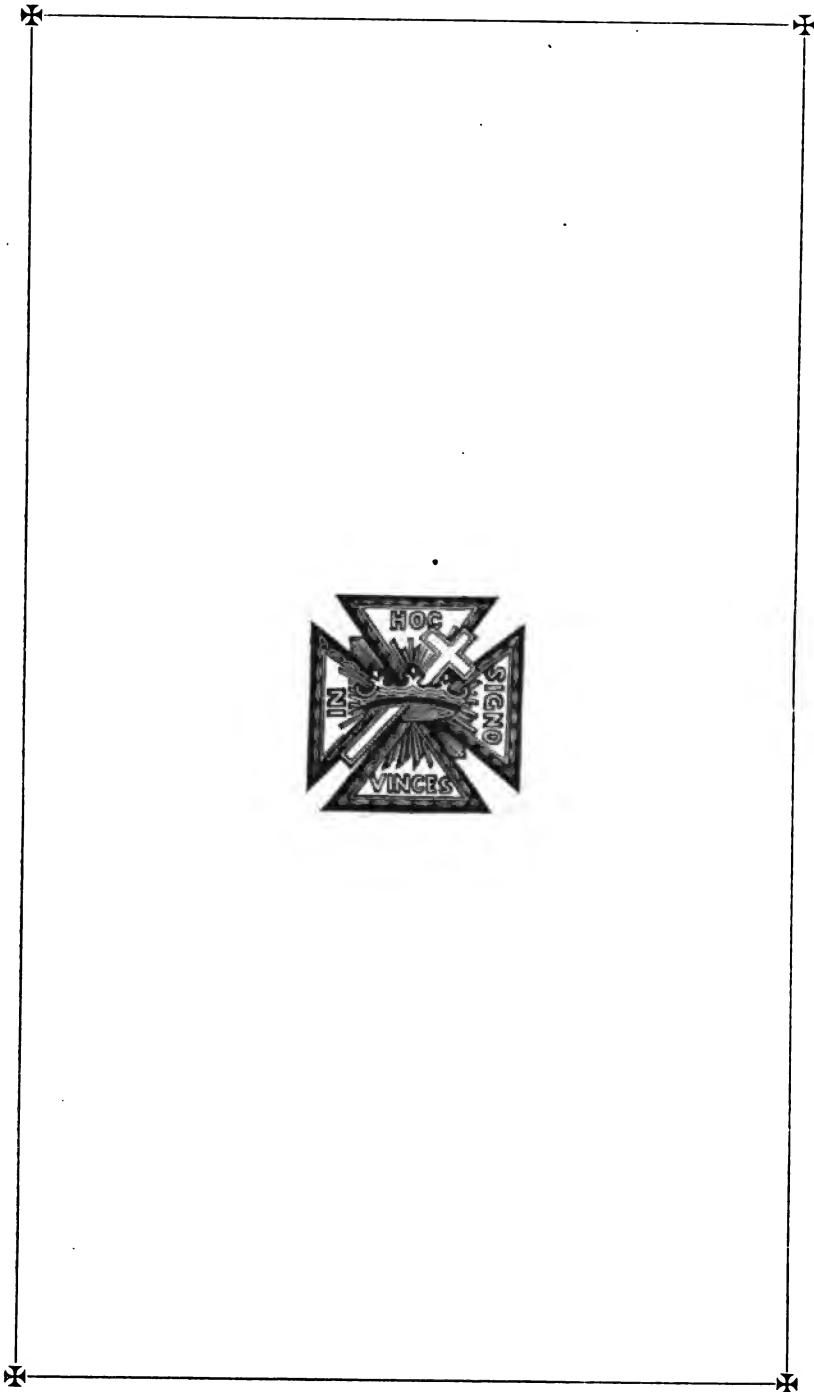
	PAGE.
O	
Officers present—grand	1
Opening	2
Officers elected	33
Officers—installation of	43
P	
Prayer	2
Past grand officers present	3
R	
Report of Grand Recorder	23-24
Report on correspondence—special	25
Report of committee on finance	29
Report of committee on charters and dispensations	30
Ritual—report of committee on	31
RESOLUTIONS—	
By Sir Knight BLADES	33
By Sir Knight ATWATER	38
By Sir Knight CHANDLER	42
Reinstatements	48
Recapitulation of annual returns	49-53
S	
Special report on correspondence	25
STANDING COMMITTEES	27-28
Jurisprudence	27
Finance	27
Charters and dispensations	27
Returns of subordinate commanderies	27
Unfinished business	28
Templar dead	28
Correspondence	28
Special order—election of officers	28
SPECIAL COMMITTEES	28
Adrian vs. Ann Arbor	28
Appointment of an inspection officer	28
Subordinate commanderies—report of committee on	35
Subordinate commanderies—inspection of	35-36
Suspensions	47-48
T	
Triennial—report of committee on	31-32
Triennial expenses—report of committee on	32

	PAGE.
THE TYLER.....	34
Territorial jurisdiction—Adrian vs. Ann Arbor.....	37
Thanks to DeMolai commandery, No. 5.....	39
Templar dead—report of committee on.....	39-41
U	
Unfinished business—report of committee on.....	36
V	
Visiting Sir Knights.....	7



Correspondence.

	PAGE.
Opening	3
Alabama	7
Arkansas	11
California	18
Canada	35
Colorado	49
Connecticut	53
Dakota	57
England and Wales	60
Georgia	62
Illinois	66
Indiana	86
Iowa	93
Kansas	109
Kentucky	118
Louisiana	125
Maine	130
Maryland	136
Massachusetts and Rhode Island	140
Minnesota	154
Mississippi	160
Missouri	177
Montana	182
Nebraska	183
New York	193
New Jersey	202
North Carolina	206
Ohio	211
Oregon	227
Pennsylvania	230
Tennessee	238
Texas	251
Vermont	254
Virginia	258
Washington	262
West Virginia	267
Wisconsin	268
Wyoming	276
Closing	279



THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONCLAVE
OF THE
GRAND COMMANDERY,
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,
OF MICHIGAN.

THE thirty-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of Michigan, was held in the asylum of DeMolai Commandery, No. 5, at the city of Grand Rapids, commencing Tuesday, May 21, A. D. 1889, A. O. 771, at 10 o'clock A. M.

GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT.

Sir CHARLES P. BIGELOW.....	R. E. Grand Commander.
Sir JOHN A. GEROW.....	V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.
Sir WILLIAM G. DOTY.....	E. Grand Generalissimo.
Sir EDWARD C. SMITH.....	E. Grand Captain General.
Sir and Rev. FRANCIS A. BLADES.....	E. Grand Prelate.
Sir JEFFERSON S. CONOVER	E. Grand Senior Warden.
Sir HENRY L. ANTHONY.....	E. Grand Junior Warden.
Sir H. SHAW NOBLE.....	E. Grand Treasurer.
Sir WILLIAM P. INNES, P. G. C.....	E. Grand Recorder.
Sir CHARLES H. POMEROY	E. Grand Standard Bearer
Sir WILLIAM E. JEWETT.....	E. Grand Sword Bearer.
Sir EDWARD D. WHEELER.....	E. Grand Warder.
Sir ALEXANDER McGREGOR.....	E. Grand Sentinel.

OPENING.

The R. E. Grand Commander then proceeded to open the Grand Commandery in *Ample Form*, assisted by the grand, past grand officers, and the representatives present.

PRAYER.

The Sir Knights were led in solemn prayer by Sir and Rev. FRANCIS A. BLADES, Grand Prelate.

The R. E. Grand Commander then declared the Grand Commandery of Michigan opened in *Ample Form*, and ready for the transaction of such business as might properly come before it.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The R. E. Grand Commander then announced the following Sir Knights members of the special committee on credentials:

Sir WILLIAM P. INNES, Past Grand Commander.

Sir MAYTON J. BUCK, Eminent Commander.

Sir WELLINGTON S. WELLS, Eminent Commander.

The committee, after a brief session, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted, and re-committed to the committee for such changes as may be found necessary:

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T., of Michigan:

Your committee on credentials respectfully report the following officers of the Grand Commandery present, and entitled to seats at this conclave; also the representatives of the several subordinate commanderies:

GRAND OFFICERS.

Sir CHARLES P. BIGELOW.....R. E. Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN A. GEROW.....V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM G. DOTY.....E. Grand Generalissimo.

Sir EDWARD C. SMITH.....E. Grand Captain General.

Sir and Rev. FRANCIS A. BLADES...E. Grand Prelate.

Sir JEFFERSON S. CONOVERE. Grand Senior Warden.

Sir HENRY L. ANTHONY.....E. Grand Junior Warden.

Sir H. SHAW NOBLE.....E. Grand Treasurer.
Sir WILLIAM P. INNES, P. G. C....E. Grand Recorder.
Sir CHARLES H. POMEROY.....E. Grand Standard Bearer.
Sir WILLIAM E. JEWETT.....E. Grand Sword Bearer.
Sir EDWARD D. WHEELER.....E. Grand Warder.
Sir ALEXANDER McGREGOR.....E. Grand Sentinel.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

Sir WILLIAM P. INNES, P. G. C. Sir HOLLIS F. KNAPP, P. G. C.
Sir LUMAN R. ATWATER, P. G. C. Sir WILLIAM B. WILSON, P. G. C.
Sir BENJAMIN PORTER, P. G. C. Sir GEORGE W. CHANDLER, P. G. C.
Sir GARRY B. NOBLE, P. G. C. Sir HEMAN N. MOORE, P. G. C.
Sir EDWARD D. BENEDICT, P. G. C. Sir WILLIAM S. LAWRENCE, P. G. C.
Sir JOHN L. MITCHELL, P. G. C. Sir THOMAS H. WILLIAMS, P. G. C.
Sir OLIVER L. SPAULDING, P. G. C. Sir WILLIAM F. KING, P. D. G. C.
Sir SAMUEL C. RANDALL, P. G. C. Sir CHARLES T. HILLS, P. D. G. C.
Sir HUGH McCURDY, P. G. C.

SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

DETROIT, No. 1—

Sir William C. Maybury, Eminent Commander.
Sir Eugene Robinson, Captain General.
Sir Richard Rowland, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir James Findlater, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir Sidney B. Dixon, Past Eminent Commander.

PONTIAC, No. 2—

Sir George H. Foster, Eminent Commander and Representative.

EUREKA, No. 3—

Sir Chauncey F. Cook, Eminent Commander.
Sir John T. Crume, Past Eminent Commander.

ADRIAN, No. 4—

Sir William F. King, Eminent Commander.

DEMOLAI, No. 5—

Sir Richard D. Swartout, Eminent Commander.
Sir Joseph C. Herkner, Generalissimo.
Sir George F. Buss, Captain General.
Sir Samuel E. Watson, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir John W. Champlin, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir Charles H. Brown, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir Henry F. Hastings, Past Eminent Commander.

ROMEO, No. 6—

Sir James Gray, Eminent Commander and Representative.

PORT HURON, No. 7—

Sir William F. Ernst, Eminent Commander.
Sir Henry N. Botsford, Past Eminent Commander.

PENINSULAR, No. 8—

Sir Washington W. Olin, Eminent Commander.
Sir Riley P. Hobbs, Generalissimo.
Sir Hugh Beggs, Captain General.
Sir George W. Young, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir Abram T. Metcalf, Past Eminent Commander.

JACKSON, No. 9—

Sir Alva H. Traver, Eminent Commander and Representative.
Sir Albert Stiles, Past Eminent Commander.

JACOBS, No. 10—

Sir Thomas A. Hilton, Eminent Commander.
Sir John W. Burk, Generalissimo.
Sir Charles A. Spaulding, Captain General.

IONIA, No. 11—

Sir Robert H. Bedford, proxy for Eminent Commander.
Sir A. S. Wright, Generalissimo.
Sir John W. Baldwin, proxy for Captain General.

NILES, No. 12—

Sir Wellington S. Wells, Eminent Commander.
Sir Stephen A. Wood, Generalissimo.
Sir James Manney, Captain General.
Sir John Woodruff, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir J. Boyd Thomas, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir William J. Gilbert, Past Eminent Commander.

ANN ARBOR, No. 13—

Sir Charles E. Hiscock, Eminent Commander.
Sir Benjamin F. Watts, Generalissimo.
Sir George H. Kempf, proxy for Captain General.
Sir William G. Doty, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir John R. Miner, Past Eminent Commander.

FENTON, No. 14—

Sir Wilford P. Cook, Eminent Commander and Representative.

GENESEE VALLEY, No. 15—

Sir George L. McQuigg, Generalissimo.

ST. BERNARD, No. 16—

Sir Robert B. McKnight, Eminent Commander and Representative.
Sir Lorenzo T. Durand, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir Fred J. Burton, Past Eminent Commander.

MARSHALL, No. 17—

Sir Charles E. Gorham, Eminent Commander.
Sir Emory J. Marshall, Generalissimo.
Sir Charles F. Fletcher, Past Eminent Commander and proxy for Captain General.

COLUMBIA, No. 18—

Sir Joseph M. Alexander, Past Eminent Commander and Representative.
Sir Henry S. Church, Past Eminent Commander.

MONROE, No. 19—

Sir Thomas R. Waters, Eminent Commander and Representative.

CORUNNA, No. 21—

Sir George R. Black, Eminent Commander.
Sir Oscar C. Moore, Generalissimo.
Sir William H. Bigelow, Captain General.
Sir Albert T. Nichols, Past Eminent Commander.

MUSKEGON, No. 22—

Sir Thomas Munroe, Eminent Commander.
Sir Lucien B. Howard, Generalissimo.
Sir Charles E. Dodge, Captain General.
Sir John R. Bennett, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir L. R. Marvin, Past Eminent Commander.

PILGRIM, No. 23—

Sir Clarence H. Olds, Eminent Commander.
Sir James F. Clark, Generalissimo.
Sir Edward W. Hudnutt, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir Charlie Gay, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir Simon G. Webster, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir Irving G. Latimer, Past Eminent Commander.

ST. JOHNS, No. 24—

Sir Murdo McDonald, Eminent Commander.
Sir Henry P. Adams, Past Eminent Commander.

LANSING, No. 25—

Sir Mayton J. Buck, Eminent Commander and Representative.

BAY CITY, No. 26—

Sir John W. Cupit, Eminent Commander.
Sir Leverett A. Pratt, Generalissimo.
Sir Charles R. Hawley, Captain General.

LEXINGTON, No. 27—

Sir Shubal D. Runnels, Eminent Commander and Representative.
Sir Arthur M. Clark, Past Eminent Commander.

HOWELL, No. 28—

Sir John W. Wright, Eminent Commander.

THREE RIVERS, No. 29—

Sir W. E. Clark, Eminent Commander.
Sir W. M. Ikeler, Generalissimo.
Sir George C. Brissette, Captain General.
Sir Lloyd B. Hess, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir L. S. Stephens, Past Eminent Commander.

LAKE SUPERIOR, No. 30—

Sir Francis M. Moore, Eminent Commander and Representative.

APOLLO, No. 31—

Sir Louis C. Waldo, Eminent Commander and Representative.

MANISTEE, No. 32—

Sir Edward D. Wheeler, Eminent Commander and Representative.

BATTLE CREEK, No. 33—

Sir Augustus F. Bock, Eminent Commander.
Sir John Watson, proxy for Captain General.

ALPENA, No. 34—

Sir John N. Kelly, Eminent Commander and Representative.

MENOMINEE, No. 35—

Sir James A. Crozer, Eminent Commander and Representative.

IVANHOE, No. 36—

Sir James Buckley, Eminent Commander.
Sir Byron W. Stark, Captain General.

CHARLOTTE, No. 37—

Sir Parm S. DeGraaf, Past Eminent Commander and Representative.

MONTROSE, No. 38—

Sir John Duncan, Eminent Commander and Representative.

NORTHVILLE, No. 39—

Sir James M. Collier, Eminent Commander.
Sir Charles G. Harrington, Generalissimo.
Sir Joseph H. Woodman, Captain General.

ITHACA, No. 40—

Sir Orlin H. Heath, Eminent Commander.
Sir John M. Trask, Captain General.

CALLED OFF.

On motion of Sir LUMAN R. ATWATER, Past Grand Commander, the Grand Commandery was called off until 7:30 p. m., this (Tuesday) evening.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE MASONIC HOME.

The Grand Commandery then formed in line to act as escort to the Grand Lodge in laying the corner-stone of the Michigan Masonic Home at Grand Rapids, the services thereof having been tendered to and accepted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge for the occasion.

EVENING SESSION.

FIRST DAY.

The Grand Commandery was called to order by the R. E. Grand Commander, in accordance with resolution passed at adjournment.

Officers and representatives in their respective stations.

ROLL CALL.

On motion of Sir BLADES, the calling of the roll was dispensed with.

VISITING SIR KNIGHTS.

On motion of Sir ATWATER, Past Grand Commander, all Sir Knights in good standing were admitted to seats during the present conclave.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The R. E. Grand Commander then proceeded to deliver his annual address, as follows:

Grand Commander's Address.

Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

It was written in days gone by that gladness adds length to our life, and I am therefore glad to meet you here and welcome you once again in this beautiful asylum of De Molai commandery, to offer up praise and thanksgiving around this templar altar to the Ruler of the Universe for the many blessings bestowed upon us the past year, both as individual Sir Knights and as a Grand Commandery.

It is my pleasure to welcome you here, where we can enjoy knightly intercourse, form new friendships, and unite more firmly the old ones. The appointed days on which we come together ought to be welcome to us; we ought to thank the kind Providence that permits us to meet here at these annual gatherings and to mingle with one another; to look into each other's faces, and see how time is dealing with us; to revive the pleasant memories of the past, and put far from us the feeling of strangeness which will grow up between those long separated; and it is my fond hope that from this meeting of the thirty-third annual conclave we may reap much gladness and great profit, and that the recollections, as we return to our several homes, may afford us that pleasure and satisfaction that these meetings have ever given.

It is sweet to see the tender greetings of templars who have been separated for the past year or more, to feel the warm grasp of knightly friendship, to see the drop of sympathetic affection glistening in the sparkling eye, to hear the full-souled and cordial greeting, and feel heart throb in unison with heart.

Here, as templars, we are shut out from the busy, bustling world, its strifes, confusion and jarring discords. Here no contentions arise, except that which should stimulate every Knight Templar—to excel in the duties required of him. No tempest of passion ever hovers here: all is peace; and, Sir Knights, if there is an oasis in life's wild waste, if there is any "bliss of Paradise that survived the fall," it is here—here, where templars meet around the altar and offer up adoration to Him who died that they might live. Now, Sir Knights, upon this auspicious day, the commencement of a new templar year, let us unfurl our banners on the outer wall, and shout, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men."

WAIVED JURISDICTION.

May 22, 1888, I granted permission for Menominee commandery, No. 35, stationed at Menominee, Michigan, to waive jurisdiction in favor of Janesville commandery, No. 2, of the grand jurisdiction of Wisconsin, over Companion D. W. KOLLE, the same having been courteously requested by Sir Knight NATHAN B. RUNDLE, R. E. Grand Commander Knights Templar of Wisconsin.

DECISIONS.

During the past year a number of questions of masonic jurisprudence have been submitted to me, the most of which have been answered by referring the interrogators to the constitution and code of statutes. A few, however, have been propounded to which I know of no statute especially applicable.

1. Can any subordinate commandery, by a majority vote at a regular conclave, legally decide to use all or any money already in the treasury to pay the expenses of a ball, party, or pilgrimage to any place for any purpose?

My answer was: The money in the treasury is the property of the commandery, and its members may expend it for any purpose (not forbidden in their by-laws) they may

think conducive to the best interest of the order. To expend it all for a ball, party, or pilgrimage, may possibly not be judicious, but they are to be the judge. If the question is to come up in your commandery, I would recommend that notice be given to every member as to the time when action thereon will be had.

2. What is the proper course to pursue when the candidate says that he has an objection against participating in the usual manner? It seems that there should be some way to avoid the difficulty. * * * * *

My answer was: Substitute pure water, and may God bless and keep him steadfast in the faithful performance of his resolution, and forbid that we should insist on his conforming to any rite or ceremony that would cause him to become a victim of the greatest curse that afflicts mankind.

WYOMING AND MONTANA.

I have been informed that since the last conclave of this Grand Commandery, Grand Commanderies have been instituted in the above mentioned Territories, and undoubtedly your committee on correspondence will report in regard to it, and I would call your attention thereto and request that proper action be taken.

EDICT OF GRAND MASTER.

On or about June 1, I received the accompanying circular letter from the M. E. Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States of America:

GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. }
OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER, NO. 4 IRVING PLACE, NEW YORK. }

To all Grand Commanderies and all Subordinate Commanderies holding Charters from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America:

WHEREAS, At the triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, held in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, on the 24th day of September, 1886, the ritual then and there adopted was declared to be the only authorized ritual to be used in conferring the orders of the Red Cross and Knights Templar

within the jurisdiction of the said Grand Encampment, and it was declared that the order adopting the same should take effect from and after the first day of April, 1887; and,

WHEREAS, The Grand Encampment did further provide that copies of said ritual should be sent to the several grand and subordinate commanderies throughout the United States; and,

WHEREAS, After copies of said authorized ritual had been sent to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of the State of Iowa, and by him distributed to the several commanderies within said State, the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of Iowa did recall the said rituals from said commanderies and caused the same to be returned to said Grand Recorder; and,

WHEREAS, The Grand Commandery of Iowa, at its stated annual conclave held on the sixth day of October, 1887, did confirm the action of said Grand Commander, and did disregard and assume to suspend the operation of the action of the Grand Encampment, taken on the 24th day of September, 1886, adopting said ritual and ordering the distribution thereof; and,

WHEREAS, Thereafter, on the twenty-first (21st) day of March, A.D. 1888, I, CHARLES ROOME, as Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States, did declare the aforesaid act of the Grand Commandery of Iowa to be null and void and of no effect, and did order and require the Grand Commander of Iowa to cause the said rituals to be reissued to the several commanderies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Iowa and each of them, and that from the time of such reissue they and every of them should adopt, use and strictly conform to the said rituals and none other; and,

WHEREAS, The Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of Iowa has refused, and still absolutely refuses, to conform to and obey the mandate of the Grand Encampment requiring the distribution of said rituals, and the order issued by me as aforesaid on the 21st day March, 1888:

*Now, Therefore, I, CHARLES ROOME, Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested, do by these presents declare the Grand Commandery of Iowa and all Sir Knights in its obedience to be in a state of *disloyalty* and *rebellion*, contrary to their vows as Knights Templar and their promised allegiance to the constitution and regulations of the Grand Encampment of the United States.*

*And until this order is revoked I interdict all templar intercourse between the Grand Commandery of Iowa and all Sir Knights in its obedience and the *loyal Knights Templar of the United States*.*

Let this order be read at the head of the lines at the earliest opportunity after its receipt.

Done at the city of New York, N. Y., this twenty-eighth day of May, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

CHARLES ROOME,

Grand Master.

In compliance with the foregoing edict of the M. E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, I do, by his order, certify the same to you; and,

In Testimony Thereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the Grand Encampment, at Richmond, Va., this second day of June, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

WILLIAM B. ISAACS,

[L. s.]

Grand Recorder.

In accordance therewith I caused to be issued to the Eminent Commander of every commandery in this grand jurisdiction the following:

GRAND COMMANDERY K. T. OF MICHIGAN,
OFFICE OF GRAND COMMANDER,
BIG RAPIDS, Mich., June 8, 1888.

Eminent Sir Knight:

The Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States has forwarded to me the order printed herewith, and has directed that it be promulgated throughout this jurisdiction.

In accordance therewith you are hereby instructed and notified that all templar intercourse is hereby interdicted between all Knights Templar and subordinate commanderies acknowledging allegiance to the Grand Commandery of Michigan, and those hailing from the grand jurisdiction of Iowa, during such time as this order of the Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States may continue and remain in force.

It is further ordered that each commanding officer of the subordinate commandery receiving this order shall cause the same to be read at the head of the lines at the first regular conclave after receipt thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Grand Commandery to be attached thereto.

[Attest:]

[L. s.] WILLIAM P. INNES,

Grand Recorder.

CHARLES P. BIGELOW,

Grand Commander.

DISPENSATIONS.

Dispensations have been issued during the year to the following commanderies, granting them permission to appear in public in templar costume for the purposes specified:

Charlotte commandery, No. 37, to decorate the graves of their deceased fraters.

Lake Superior commandery, No. 30, to attend divine service on St. JOHN the Baptist's Day.

Jackson commandery, No. 9, Charlotte commandery, No. 37, and Peninsular commandery, No. 8, to go into camp for instruction and drill.

Ivanhoe commandery, No. 36, to make a pilgrimage to Mackinaw.

Ann Arbor commandery, No. 13, to receive Northville commandery, No. 39, which was visiting it for the purpose of exchange of work.

Northville commandery, No. 39, to receive Ann Arbor commandery for the same purpose.

Manistee commandery, No. 32, Bay City commandery, No. 26, and Genesee Valley commandery, No. 15, to attend divine worship on Easter Sunday.

Dispensations have been granted the following named commanderies to receive and ballot upon petitions for orders in less than the specified time, such dispensations being issued only when I was satisfied that good reason existed for such action, and in every dispensation it was specified that all members of the respective commanderies should be duly notified: Peninsular commandery, No. 8; Jacobs commandery, No. 10; De Molai commandery, No. 5; Marshall commandery, No. 17; Adrian commandery, No. 4; Pilgrim commandery, No. 23.

I have granted dispensations to Jackson commandery, No. 9; Northville commandery, No. 39; De Molai commandery, No. 5, and Ann Arbor commandery, No. 13, to

visit other commanderies for the purpose of exchange of work.

Dispensations have been granted Port Huron commandery, No. 7, and Apollo commandery, No. 31, to remove to new asylums.

DISPENSATIONS REFUSED.

I have refused in several instances to grant dispensations to receive and ballot upon petitions in less than four weeks, the request for such dispensations not being made in accordance with the supplement to the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment.

I have declined to grant several requests for dispensations allowing commanderies to appear in public in templar costume on other than masonic occasions, such appearance being interdicted by the Grand Encampment.

TEMPLAR DEAD.

The implacable reaper, Death, has not thrust in his sickle among the ranks of the officers, past or present, of this Grand Commandery, during the templar year just passed, but in some of our sister jurisdictions who have been less fortunate, there has fallen before his relentless hand, as follows:

INDIANA.

JOHN H. HESS, Past Grand Commander, died May 25, 1888.

IOWA.

OZIAS PHELPS WATERS, Past Grand Commander, died June 28, 1888, aged 58 years.

MARYLAND.

HENRY WHITE MANTON, Past Grand Commander, died August 6, 1888.

NEW YORK.

FRANK L. STOWELL, Past Grand Commander, died February 9, 1888, aged 62 years.

CHARLES AIKMAN, Past Grand Commander, died July 30, 1888, aged 68 years.

JOHN W. SIMONS, Past Grand Commander, died October 23, 1888, aged 67 years.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

I have paid official visits to twenty-one subordinate commanderies, as follows:

September 6, 1888, accompanied by Eminent Sir EDWARD D. WHEELER, Grand Warder, I visited Apollo commandery, No. 31, and witnessed the conferring of the Order of the Temple.

September 13, accompanied by the same Eminent Sir Knight, I visited Ivanhoe commandery, No. 36, at which time the Order of the Temple was conferred. The next morning I accepted a courteous invitation from the knights of Ivanhoe and accompanied them on a pilgrimage to Mackinac Island; spent the day in visiting the places of interest with which the island abounds; returned to Petoskey in the evening, passed the night in sweet, refreshing sleep, and arose in the morning invigorated by the day's recreation and the pure bracing air of that region.

February 1, 1889, I visited Pilgrim commandery, No. 23, when the work was exemplified on the Order of the Temple.

February 21, with Sir EDWARD D. WHEELER, Eminent Grand Warder, I visited Manistee commandery, No. 32, when the Order of the Temple was conferred.

February 16, I visited DeMolai commandery, No. 5, when the work on the Order of the Temple was beautifully and impressively done by Jackson commandery, No. 9.

February 28, I paid a visit to Niles commandery, No. 12, at which time the work on the Order of the Temple was exemplified.

March 1, accompanied by Sir SAMUEL E. WATSON, Eminent Commander of DeMolai commandery, No. 5, I visited Three Rivers commandery, No. 29, and witnessed the conferring of the Templar Order.

March 2, in company with Sir HENRY L. ANTHONY,

Eminent Grand Junior Warden, and Eminent Sir SAMUEL E. WATSON, Eminent Commander DeMolai commandery, I visited Battle Creek commandery, No. 33. The commandery was opened and no work appearing some time was spent in instruction and converse upon the good of the order.

I visited Ithaca commandery, No. 40, on March 7. A commandery of Knights Templar was opened and closed and a Council of Knights of the Red Cross opened and that order conferred.

March 8, accompanied by Sir EDWARD C. SMITH, Eminent Grand Captain General, and Sir CHARLES H. POMEROY, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer, I visited Romeo commandery, No. 6. The commandery was opened in full form, and no work appearing the evening was spent in instruction.

March 9, in company with the above mentioned eminent knights, I visited Port Huron commandery, No. 7. A commandery of Knights Templar was opened but no candidate appearing to receive the orders of knighthood, some time was employed in instruction and drill.

I visited Genesee Valley commandery, No. 15, accompanied by Eminent Sir EDWARD C. SMITH, Grand Captain General, on March 11, at which time the commandery was opened in full form, and after transacting such business as came before it, was closed, and a council of Knights of the Red Cross opened and that illustrious order conferred.

March 12 I visited Corunna, No. 21, and found the Sir Knights comfortably quartered in an asylum of their own, free from debt and with money in the treasury; was courteously and hospitably received and entertained by the Sir Knights and especially by Eminent Sir HUGH McCURDY, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States.

March 21 I visited Fenton commandery, No. 14. Unfortunately many of the officers were absent from the town and

it was found to be impracticable to open the commandery. The evening was spent in converse on the subject of templarism, the best methods of promoting its prosperity and especially that of Fenton commandery, No. 14.

March 22 I visited Monroe commandery, No. 19. The commandery was opened in full form. No candidates appearing to be knighted the evening was spent in instruction and drill.

I visited Detroit commandery, No. 1, on March 23, at which time the Order of the Temple was conferred, as only Detroit commandery can confer it.

March 25 I visited St. Johns commandery, No. 24, and on the 26th visited Ionia commandery, No. 11. No work was done in either of them at the time of my visit; gave them instruction in work and drill.

April 4 I visited Lake Superior commandery, No. 30, when the Order of the Red Cross was conferred.

April 5 I visited Montrose commandery, No. 38. The petitions of twelve applicants for the orders of knighthood were balloted upon and all approved. The election of officers was then had, after which the Order of the Temple was conferred.

On April 6 I visited Menominee commandery, No. 35. The work of the Order of the Temple was exemplified.

My pilgrimage through the State was an exceedingly pleasant one, and it was highly gratifying to observe the strong attachment for the order, and how much of the principles of true chivalry, among which are courtesy, hospitality, honor, charity, benevolence and fraternity are not only professed but practiced by the Sir Knights of this grand jurisdiction.

One of the results of my tour of visitation was to impress me with the necessity of this Grand Commandery instituting some system of annual inspection and instruction of its subordinates, if it wishes them to sustain the enviable

reputation they have heretofore enjoyed for perfection in work and drill. I am not prepared to recommend any particular method, but herewith submit the system adopted by the Grand Commandery of Wisconsin, and would commend it to your consideration:

* * * * *

Records should be thoroughly examined and report made of such parts as may be of special interest. Inspect uniforms, and report the number of Sir Knights without them; also report as to the compliance of commanderies with Grand Commandery regulations.

It is desired that the grand officers should visit commanderies when work is to be done, and report any commandery not using the new ritual strictly.

A full report of official acts, with such recommendations as may be deemed advisable by the visiting officer, must be forwarded to this office from time to time, as visitations are made, and a general report submitted to the Grand Commandery at the next regular conclave.

INVASION OF JURISDICTION.

March 16, 1889, I received a communication from Eminent Sir SAMUEL E. WATSON, Eminent Commander of DeMolai commandery, No. 5, of this grand jurisdiction, informing me that South Bend commandery, No. 13, stationed at South Bend, Indiana, had conferred the orders of knighthood upon one WILLIAM E. BARRETT, a resident of the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and respectfully protesting against such encroachment upon the jurisdiction of DeMolai commandery, No. 5, and asking that the grievance be redressed.

I immediately addressed a communication to Sir REUBEN PEDEN, R. E. Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Indiana, informing him of the action of South Bend commandery, and asking that restitution be made to DeMolai commandery.

In due time I received a courteous communication from R. E. Sir PEDEN, acknowledging the receipt of my letter, and assuring me that the Grand Commandery of Indiana would see that proper reparation be made for any trespass

which may have been committed by her subordinates within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Michigan.

In a few days thereafter I received another communication from the same Eminent Knight, to the effect that South Bend commandery had expressed a readiness to accede to any reasonable demand that should be made by DeMolai commandery, and proposed to allow the two commanderies to adjust the difference between themselves. To this I consented, and on April 6 had the pleasure of being informed by the Eminent Commander of DeMolai commandery that the matter had been amicably and satisfactorily settled, South Bend Commandery having remitted the amount of fees charged by DeMolai for conferring the orders.

ADRIAN VS. ANN ARBOR.

On or about April 25, 1889, I received a communication signed by WILLIAM F. KING, Eminent Commander of Adrian commandery, No. 4, to the effect that Adrian commandery had and does claim jurisdiction over material for the orders of knighthood in the village of Manchester, in the county of Washtenaw, and State of Michigan. That a little more than a year ago Ann Arbor commandery, No. 13, stationed at Ann Arbor, Michigan, requested Adrian commandery, No. 4, to grant them a waiver of jurisdiction over one Companion KAPP, a resident of Manchester, who was desirous of receiving the orders of knighthood in Ann Arbor commandery; that Adrian commandery refused to grant said request, and so officially notified Ann Arbor commandery; but disregarding such refusal and notice thereof, Ann Arbor commandery proceeded to confer the orders of knighthood upon the before mentioned Companion. Therefore, Adrian commandery, No. 4, requests that Ann Arbor commandery, No. 13, be enjoined to totally desist and refrain from receiving any petitions from residents of Manchester for the orders of knighthood, or in any way exercising jurisdiction therein, until such time as the Grand Commandery shall decide that

Ann Arbor commandery, No. 13, has jurisdiction so to do. I immediately wrote to the Eminent Commander of Ann Arbor commandery, No. 13, informing him of the complaint made by Adrian commandery of his encroaching upon their jurisdiction, and requesting him to inform me what justification he claimed for so doing, and received in reply: That Ann Arbor commandery, after receiving the refusal of Adrian commandery to waive jurisdiction in the case of Companion KAPP, employed a competent engineer to draw a map, based upon United States surveys, showing the center line between the two commanderies; this line showing the residence of Companion KAPP to be within the jurisdiction of Ann Arbor commandery, they proceeded to confer the orders of knighthood upon him; that Ann Arbor commandery, believing the village of Manchester to be equi-distant between the two commanderies, desired that they exercise co-ordinate jurisdiction therein. I thereupon wrote to the Eminent Commander of Adrian commandery, informing him of the statement made by the Eminent Commander of Ann Arbor commandery in justification of their conferring the orders upon Companion KAPP; also of the desire of Ann Arbor commandery that concurrent jurisdiction be had by the two commanderies over material in the village of Manchester, and requested him to inform me if such an adjustment of the matter would be satisfactory, but up to the present time I have not received a reply.

I would recommend that a committee of three be appointed to ascertain the exact distance from the village of Manchester to the asylum of Adrian commandery, No. 4, and to that of Ann Arbor, No. 13, and report to this Grand commandery as soon as possible.

CONCLUSION.

And now, fraters, in laying down the honors and cares of my office, I may be pardoned if I pause for a brief and final survey of our tented field. As one's advancing foot-

steps bear him to some eminence where he turns to contemplate, as by a panoramic glance, the scenes which he has but lately left, so at the end of my year's service it is with pleasure that I look backward and recall experiences which must prove among the treasured memories of my life. Foremost in thought may well be my acknowledged obligations to our honored Grand Recorder, whose unfailing urbanity, familiarity with the duties of his office and cordial co-operation, go very far toward rendering the duties of any Grand Commander less onerous than they otherwise would be. Then everywhere I have been received with uniform courtesy and consideration, making my experience not only pleasing but such as to deepen within me a profound regard for the principles of our illustrious and valiant order. It is indeed a noble institution of which we are members and guardians. It has a history which is a part of all the sterner and grander struggles of mankind for better things. The antique and blood stained fabric, in which the toilers of the past have woven the Orders of St. John and of the Temple, furnish many a radiant figure which shines as if by the indwelling light of heaven. The lofty heroism, the passionate faith, chivalry for man and woman, that enrich our song and story have been conspicuously illustrated by our historic paternities. The actors, after playing their parts, have passed from the stage of existence, but they have left the lessons which they taught and the ambitions which they enkindled as a portion of the world's great possessions. We inherit their forms, traditions and precepts, but not as simple heirlooms; rather as symbols, which by the inbreathing of consecrated spirits became inbued with imperishable life. It is true

"The old order changeth
Yielding place to new,"

but ever the immortal truth survives in all its varying guise. During my term of office I have realized that the present day furnishes instances of knighthood as admirable as any in ARTHUR's court or on field of cloth of gold.

Let us have more of them. Within our borders let there be no schisms or intrigues or unworthy ambitions. These among knights are most unknightly; fraternity, honor, self-sacrifice and purity are the virtues most becoming one who assumes our sacred vows. With all of its advances the world yet sorely needs more of the grand and graceful characteristics for which our order stands. Let us bring to it the contribution of our personal chivalry that man and woman may be exalted and the world enriched because of the holy ties that bind us together.

"Knowing this, that never yet
Share of fruit was vainly set
In the world's wide fallow;
After hands shall sow the seed,
After hands from hill and mead
Reap the harvest yellow."

Thanking you for the many courtesies I have received at your hands, and assuring you that remembrances of the past year will be among the most pleasing and cherished recollections of my life, I place in your hands the business of the thirty-third annual conclave and await your pleasure.

CHARLES P. BIGELOW,
Grand Commander.

ACCEPTED.

On motion of Sir Knight WATSON, the address of the Grand Commander was accepted, and referred to a special committee of three for division and reference.

The R. E. Grand Commander appointed as such committee:

Sir Knight SAMUEL E. WATSON, Past Eminent Commander.
Sir Knight ORRIN H. HEATH, Eminent Commander.
Sir Knight THOMAS R. WATERS, Eminent Commander.

GRAND RECORDER'S REPORT.

The Grand Recorder then submitted his annual report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted, and so much thereof as relates to the Grand Encampment, was referred

to the committee on division and reference of Grand Commander's address:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

SIR KNIGHTS—Another year has come and gone; its pleasures and griefs, its hopes and disappointments are numbered with the great past. Once again we meet in annual conclave, and it is with pleasure that I submit this, my nineteenth annual report, of the doings of this office.

The routine daily duties of the office have had my attention and best efforts. The labor increases each year but that must be expected in a growing, prosperous jurisdiction like ours. There are no drones in our hives; all are busy workers, and all must bear their share of the burden.

ANNUAL PROCEEDINGS.

As is the usual custom the last annual proceedings were printed and distributed at an early day after adjournment of the Grand Commandery. Prompt acknowledgment, as a general thing, was made of the receipt of the proceedings, and while all did not acknowledge receipt I presume they came to hand or your Grand Recorder would have received a gentle reminder in that direction.

JEWEL.

The Past Grand Commander's jewel that I was instructed to procure for Past Grand Commander, THOS. H. WILLIAMS, was, soon after adjournment, put into the hands of Sir BENJAMIN F. WATTS, Past Grand High Priest, with a request that same be gotten up in the usual style, as adopted by our Grand Commandery. Sir WATTS being a skilled workman, and having his heart in the work, brought up a specimen of skill surpassed by none, and for which he is entitled not only to wages but the thanks of the order. On completion of the jewel it was presented to Sir WILLIAMS with the best wishes of this Grand Commandery for his continued health and prosperity. He responded in a most knightly manner, and begged me convey to this grand body his thanks for the kindly consideration given to his efforts, not only as the presiding officer, but in the many posts of honor it had been your pleasure to bestow upon him.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT TAX.

The tax of the Grand Encampment has had the attention it deserved; same has been paid and the receipt duly acknowledged.

RECORD.

Upon pages 32 and 33, Grand Commandery proceedings 1888, is

found the following report of the special committee on templar record:

* * * * *

"Your committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Recorder's report as relates to obtaining a masonic history of every Sir Knight in this jurisdiction, would respectfully recommend that the Grand Recorder be instructed to procure a suitable book, and enter upon the same the names of all Sir Knights who have been or may become members of subordinate commanderies in this jurisdiction, giving the date of their birth, initiation, raising and exaltation; also giving highest rank attained in lodge, chapter and commandery, both grand and subordinate, giving name, number and grand jurisdiction in which located, of the lodge in which raised, chapter in which exalted, and date of receiving the orders of knighthood, name and number of the commandery, and grand jurisdiction in which conferred. And the Grand Recorder be authorized to employ necessary clerical help to carry out the above instructions, and draw his warrant on the Grand Treasurer for the same. Further, that when any subordinate commandery in this jurisdiction may desire a copy of such record, the Grand Recorder shall furnish the same, so far as relates to their commandery, on the payment of the necessary expenses of making such copy."

* * * * *

Little progress has been made in the direction indicated owing to other pressing matters, but the work is by no means abandoned; indeed the necessity of it is still more impressed upon the mind of your Grand Recorder, and upon all with whom he has conversed upon the subject, and next year will, I hope, see much work accomplished in this direction.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

Your Grand Recorder is already pressed with much correspondence on this subject, and he will endeavor to respond to all enquiries and calls made upon him. He would suggest that a special committee on transportation of the officers of the Grand Commandery and the Grand Encampment be appointed, provided it is thought advisable that they go in a body, irrespective of the movements of the subordinate commanderies, and would further recommend that we keep in line with our sister grand jurisdictions and make the requisite appropriation for Grand Commandery headquarters. In this respect we have ever been the equal of any, and may we so continue.

Courteously submitted,

W.M. P. INNES,
Grand Recorder.

SPECIAL REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Grand Recorder WILLIAM P. INNES, for the standing committee on correspondence, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted, and unanimously adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your standing committee on correspondence would most respectfully submit the following special report, and ask your careful consideration thereon, recommending that the same, together with the accompanying resolution, be adopted:

The trumpet sounds from the templar wall convey the gratifying intelligence that unto us are given two new sister grand bodies. Two constellations added to our templar sky; two Grand Commanderies are organized and take their stand, prepared for such work as may add to the fame of templar masonry of the world, and of the far northwest in particular.

The Grand Commandery of Wyoming, under a legal warrant granted for that purpose, by M. E. Grand Master CHARLES ROOME, was duly organized in the city of Cheyenne on March 9, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770, and its constitution approved and promulgated.

The Grand Commandery of Montana was, under the same authority, duly organized on May 12, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770, its constitution adopted and officers duly elected.

Your committee, after a careful consideration of the subject, find that these two bodies are justly entitled to the honors and awards that await the good and true, and, therefore, respectfully submit the following resolution, and ask its adoption:

Resolved, That we most courteously welcome the Grand Commanderies of Wyoming and Montana, and receive them as equals among us, wishing and hoping that peace and prosperity may reign within their walls, and that their career may prove a lasting monument of the wisdom of those engaged in the work, and be an evidence of their fervency and earnestness of purpose on behalf of templar masonry.

Courteously submitted,

WILLIAM P. INNES,

For Committee.

FINANCIAL.

The Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer submitted their annual financial reports, which, on motion, were accepted and referred to the committee on finance.

GREETINGS.

The Grand Recorder announced the fact that the Grand Commandery of Kentucky was now in annual conclave, and suggested that we send her greetings on this occasion, when, on motion of Sir OLIVER L. SPAULDING, Past Grand Commander, the Grand Commander was requested to send greeting to our sister Kentucky, and the following dispatch was immediately dictated and forwarded:

To Lorenzo D. Croninger, Grand Recorder, Knights Templar, Cynthiana, Kentucky:

Michigan Knights Templar, in grand conclave assembled, send courteous greeting to the officers and members of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky. May peace be within your borders and prosperity abound with you always.

CHARLES P. BIGELOW,
Grand Commander.

DIVISION AND REFERENCE.

The special committee to whom was referred the address of the R. E. Grand Commander, for division and reference, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee to whom was referred the address of the R. E. Grand Commander, for division and reference, beg to submit the following report and recommendations:

That so much as refers to decisions be referred to the committee on jurisprudence.

That so much as refers to templar dead be referred to the committee on templar dead.

That so much as refers to the matter of inspection of commanderies be referred to a special committee of three.

That so much as refers to the misunderstanding between Ann Arbor commandery No. 13, and Adrian commandery, No. 4, be referred to a special committee of three.

Courteously submitted,

SAMUEL E. WATSON,

ORLIN H. HEATH,

THOMAS R. WATERS,

Committee.

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

Rev. and Sir Knight FRANCIS A. BLADES moved the appointment of a committee to select the place of meeting for the next conclave of this Grand Commandery, but asked to be excused from serving thereon. The R. E. Grand Commander appointed as such committee:

Sir Knight LLOYD B. HESS.

Sir Knight WASHINGTON W. OLIN.

Sir Knight CLARENCE H. OLDS.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced the appointment of the following Sir Knights as members of the several standing committees:

JURISPRUDENCE.

Sir Knight ARTHUR M. CLARK, Past Eminent Commander.

Sir Knight HENRY S. CHURCH, Past Eminent Commander.

Sir Knight GEORGE L. MCQUIGG, Generalissimo.

FINANCE.

Sir Knight WILLIAM F. KING, Eminent Commander.

Sir Knight WILLIAM E. CLARK, Eminent Commander.

Sir Knight JAMES BUCKLEY, Eminent Commander.

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS.

Sir Knight JOHN DUNCAN, Eminent Commander.

Sir Knight PARM S. DEGRAFF, Past Eminent Commander.

Sir Knight GEORGE R. BLACK, Eminent Commander.

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

Sir Knight JOHN M. TRASK, Captain General.

Sir Knight JOHN R. MINER, Past Eminent Commander.

Sir Knight ROBERT B. MCKNIGHT, Eminent Commander.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Sir Knight CHARLES E. GORHAM, Eminent Commander.
Sir Knight THOMAS MUNROE, Eminent Commander.
Sir Knight MURDO McDONALD, Eminent Commander.

TEMPLAR DEAD.

Sir Knight WILLIAM C. MAYBURY, Eminent Commander.
Sir Knight FRANCIS M. MOORE, Eminent Commander.
Sir Knight ALVA H. TRAVER, Eminent Commander.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight WILLIAM P. INNES, Past Grand Commander.
Sir Knight WILLIAM S. LAWRENCE, Past Grand Commander.
Sir Knight JAMES GRAY, Past Eminent Commander.

ADJOURNMENT.

Sir Knight LUMAN R. ATWATER, Past Grand Commander, moved that when the Grand Commandery adjourn it stand adjourned until the hour of 9 A. M. to-morrow (Wednesday).

SPECIAL ORDER.

On motion of Sir Knight GEORGE W. CHANDLER, Past Grand Commander, the election of officers for the ensuing year was made the special order for to-morrow (Wednesday) at 10 o'clock A. M.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

The Grand Commander announced the following Sir Knights as members of special committees upon the following subjects, referred to by him in his address:

Adrian commandery, No. 4, vs. Ann Arbor commandery, No. 13:

Sir Knight SAMUEL C. RANDALL, Past Grand Commander.
Sir Knight WILLIAM B. WILSON, Past Grand Commander.
Sir Knight CHARLES T. FLETCHER, Past Eminent Commander.

On the question of the appointment of an inspection officer:

Sir Knight THOMAS H. WILLIAMS, Past Grand Commander.
Sir Knight GEORGE W. CHANDLER, Past Grand Commander.
Sir Knight JOHN L. MITCHELL, Past Grand Commander.

ADJOURNED.

On motion, the Grand Commandery adjourned until the hour of 9 A. M. to-morrow (Wednesday).

MORNING SESSION.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, 9 A. M.

The Grand Commandery was called to order by the R. E. Grand Commander, at 9 A. M., as per resolution of adjournment.

Officers and representatives in their respective stations.

Prayer by the Grand Prelate.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Sir Knight Wm. F. KING, chairman of the committee on finance, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on finance would respectfully report that they have made a careful examination of the accounts of the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer and find the Grand Recorder has received during the year the sum of \$3,399.75 for dues from subordinate commanderies, for which amount the Grand Treasurer has rendered his receipt.

Cash balance on hand at beginning of year.....	\$4,308 63
Received during year.....	3,399 75
<hr/>	

Total.....	\$7,708 38
------------	------------

From which deduct the disbursements of Grand Treasurer as follows:

Pay roll of grand officers.....	\$ 336 70
Pay roll of representatives of subordinate commanderies.....	751 40
Warrants of Grand Recorder.....	1,706 88
Balance on hand.....	4,913 40
<hr/>	
All of which is courteously submitted,	
WILLIAM F. KING,	
WILLIAM E. CLARK,	
JAMES BUCKLEY,	
Committee.	

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS.

Sir Knight JOHN DUNCAN, Eminent Commander, chairman of the committee on charters and dispensations, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted, and Montrose Commandery, No. 38, authorized to remove their asylum from Hancock to Calumet:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on charters and dispensations, to whom was referred the petition of fifty-seven Sir Knights, members of Montrose Commandery, No. 38, Knights Templar, asking permission to remove said commandery from Hancock, where it is now stationed, to Calumet, beg leave to submit the following report:

We find that of the ninety members belonging to the above named commandery, forty-three reside within a radius of four miles from Calumet, thirty-two at Hancock and Houghton, fifteen at Gogebic, and balance scattering. Of the thirty-two resident members at Hancock and Houghton, ten have signed the petition for removal, while but seven have signed the remonstrance; that a majority of Gogebic Sir Knights have signified their approval of the change in location although not actual petitioners and not included in the fifty-seven before mentioned, so that it can safely be said that the proposed change is satisfactory to a very large majority of the Sir Knights of Montrose commandery.

Your committee find further that in the new masonic hall recently erected at Calumet the commandery can secure better accommodations and at a lower rent than at Hancock, besides having the advantage of the use of the armory of Company H, Third Regiment State troops, for purposes of drill, a building 66 feet by 150 feet and within a few yards of the masonic hall.

Lastly, your committee find that the contemplated change of location will not trespass upon the jurisdiction of any other commandery, it simply removing the location nearer the lake and farther from the adjacent commanderies. Your committee therefore recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

Courteously submitted,

JOHN DUNCAN,
PARN S. DEGRAFF,
GEO. B. BLACK,
Committee.

RITUAL.

Sir Knight OLIVER L. SPAULDING, chairman of the committee on ritual, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted after same had been fully discussed by Sir Knights MITCHELL, SPAULDING, McCURDY and others:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your special committee to whom was referred the matter of the ritual beg leave to submit the following resolution as a substitute for the two resolutions referred to them:

Resolved, That while this Grand Commandery has been and is earnest in its loyalty and fealty to the Grand Encampment, it believes it to be unwise for the Grand Encampment to attempt to prescribe a ritual for the several Grand Commanderies; it believes that such legislation is impractical and pernicious; it believes that each Grand Commandery should be accorded the liberty to prescribe such orderly and knightly forms for inculcating the principles and precepts of our order as shall best convey their sublime teachings and best subserve the interest of templar masonry within its jurisdiction. Full in this belief, this Grand Commandery, unhesitatingly but respectfully, expresses the opinion that the action of the Grand Encampment, in 1886, by which it attempted the futile work of establishing a uniformity of ritual, ought to be rescinded; and the delegates from this Grand Commandery to the next meeting of the Grand Encampment are instructed to use all reasonable and knightly efforts to this end.

Courteously submitted,

OLIVER L. SPAULDING,

F. H. WILLIAMS,

LUMAN R. ATWATER,

Committee.

TRIENNIAL.

Sir Knight JOHN A. GEROW, Deputy Grand Commander, for the special committee appointed at the last Grand conclave, to secure headquarters for the Grand Commandery at Washington during the coming triennial, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee, appointed at the last annual conclave, to secure

headquarters for this grand body at Washington, D. C., during the coming triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment, would respectfully report: That they have secured large and commodious quarters at the Arlington Hotel; also accommodations for the officers and members of the Grand Commandery.

Your committee would respectfully recommend that a liberal provision be made to meet the necessary expenses of maintaining the headquarters in a manner creditable to the State of Michigan.

Courteously submitted,

JOHN A. GEROW,
THOMAS H. WILLIAMS,
WILLIAM G. DOTY,
Committee.

APPROPRIATION FOR TRIENNIAL EXPENSES.

Sir Knight SAMUEL E. WATSON, chairman of the special committee on division and reference of the Grand Commander's address, and to whom that part of the Grand Recorder's report was referred relative to proper arrangements for the Grand Commandery at Washington, during the triennial conclave, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on division and reference, to whom was referred the recommendation of the Eminent Grand Recorder regarding the pilgrimage of this body to Washington, in October next, would courteously recommend that the sum of \$1,000 be appropriated for the use of the Grand Commandery for headquarters and other necessary expenses; also that the Grand Commander-elect appoint a suitable committee on transportation.

Courteously submitted,

SAMUEL E. WATSON,
ORLIN H. HEATH,
THOMAS R. WATERS,
Committee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Grand Commander announced that the time had now arrived for the special order, namely: the election of officers, and he appointed as tellers to scrutinize the ballot the following Sir Knights:

Sir Knight EDWARD D. BENEDICT, Past Grand Commander,
Sir Knight JOHN N. DUNCAN, Eminent Commander,
Sir Knight JAMES GRAY, Past Eminent Commander,

Who, after a careful count thereof, reported that the following Sir Knights had received the greater number of votes, and they were therefore declared elected to the several respective offices:

Sir JOHN A. GEROW.....Marshall....R. E. Grand Commander.
Sir Wm. G. DOTY.....Ann Arbor..V. E. Dep. Grand Commander,
Sir EDWARD C. SMITH.....Pontiac.....E. Grand Generalissimo.
Sir JEFFERSON S. CONOVER.Coldwater...E. Grand Captain General.
Sir Rev. FRANCIS A. BLADES,Detroit.....E. Grand Prelate.
Sir HENRY L. ANTНЫY...Sturgis.....E. Grand Senior Warden.
Sir CHARLES H. POMEROY.Bay City....E. Grand Junior Warden.
Sir H. SHAW NOBLE.....Monroe....E. Grand Treasurer.
Sir WILLIAM P. INNES.....Gd. Rapids. E. Grand Recorder.
Sir WILLIAM E. JEWETT...Adrian.....E. Grand Standard Bearer.
Sir EDWARD D. WHEELER..Manistee....E. Grand Sword Bearer.
Sir ALBERT STILES.....Jackson....E. Grand Warden.
Sir ALEXANDER McGREGOR,Detroit.....E. Grand Sentinel.

GREETINGS.

The R. E. Grand Commander then read the following dispatch from Sir HORACE JANUARY, Grand Commander K. T. of Kentucky, and same was received with much joy by the Grand Commandery:

CYNTHIANA, Ky., May 22.

CHAS. P. BIGELOW:

The Grand Commandery of Kentucky most heartily reciprocate your fraternal congratulations. For my brethren and companions sake I will say, peace be with you ever.

HORACE JANUARY,
Grand Commander.

RESOLUTION.

Sir Knight BLADES submitted the following resolution, which, on motion, was accepted and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Past Grand Deputies of the Grand Commandery be paid their per diem and mileage the same as the grand officers of this Grand Commandery.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight WILLIAM P. INNES, Grand Recorder, chairman of the standing committee on correspondence, submitted the report, which was accepted and ordered printed with the proceedings. (See appendix.)

JURISPRUDENCE.

Sir Knight ARTHUR M. CLARK, chairman of the committee on jurisprudence, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on masonic jurisprudence have examined the decisions of the R. E. Grand Commander and believe them to be sound masonic law, and recommend they be approved by the Grand Commandery.

Courteously submitted,

ARTHUR M. CLARK,
HENRY S. CHURCH,
GEORGE L. MCQUIGG,
Committee.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

Sir Knight JEFFERSON S. CONOVER submitted the following amendment to the constitution; same was accepted, ordered printed with the proceedings, and laid over until next annual conclave:

Amend section 2, article 5, constitution, by adding at the close of the present section, the words "and members knighted during the year."

"THE TYLER."

Past Grand Commander Sir Knight McCURDY submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Desiring to recognize the merit and literary standing of *The Tyler*, published in the city of Grand Rapids, and its value to the fraternity, therefore,

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery recommend *The Tyler* to the favorable patronage of the fraternity.

SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

Sir Knight JOHN R. MINER, chairman of the committee

on subordinate returns submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and recommitted to the committee, together with the committee on jurisprudence, for further report:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on subordinate returns beg leave to report: That it has become the custom in making reports from subordinate commanderies not to include nor pay annual grand dues on members knighted during the year. Your committee are informed by the Grand Recorder that this is incorrect. If he is correct, the following is the state of the returns:

Due from No. 1.....	\$ 6 75	Due from No. 22.....	\$16 50
Due from No. 2.....	2 25	Due from No. 23.....	5 25
Due from No. 3.....	4 50	Due from No. 26.....	12 75
Due from No. 4.....	6 00	Due from No. 27.....	3 00
Due from No. 5.....	4 50	Due from No. 28.....	6 75
Due from No. 6.....	3 00	Due from No. 29.....	2 00
Due from No. 8.....	9 75	Due from No. 30.....	8 25
Due from No. 9.....	8 25	Due from No. 31.....	1 50
Due from No. 10.....	2 75	Due from No. 32.....	1 50
Due from No. 11.....	9 50	Due from No. 33.....	4 50
Due from No. 12.....	5 25	Due from No. 34.....	7 50
Due from No. 13.....	12 75	Due from No. 35.....	3 00
Due from No. 15.....	1 50	Due from No. 36.....	8 25
Due from No. 16.....	11 25	Due from No. 37.....	6 00
Due from No. 17.....	1 50	Due from No. 38.....	7 50
Due from No. 19.....	1 50	Due from No. 39.....	8 25
Due from No. 21.....	3 00	Due to No. 40.....	5 00

We beg to ask instructions as to how the report shall be made for the current year.

Courteously submitted,

JOHN R. MINER,
ROBERT B. MCKNIGHT,
JOHN M. TRASK,
Committee.

INSPECTION OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

Sir Knight THOMAS H. WILLIAMS, Past Grand Com-

mander, chairman of the special committee on that part of the Grand Commander's address referring to inspection of subordinate commanderies, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee, to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Commander's address relating to the inspection of subordinate commanderies would respectfully report that they have had the matter under consideration.

Your committee fully appreciate the benefits that would be derived by the commanderies under the system of a uniform inspection by a competent inspector. We believe, however, that the person selected by the delegates to this Grand Commandery to preside over this grand body as its Grand Commander is eminently fitted to perform that duty, but we recommend that the matter of inspection be left in the hands of that officer.

Your committee would further recommend that if the R. E. Grand Commander finds it impossible to attend to that duty he be empowered to delegate the same to any Sir Knight whom he may be pleased to select, and that the actual expenses, mileage and per diem of such inspectors be borne by this grand body.

Courteously submitted,

THOMAS H. WILLIAMS,
GEORGE W. CHANDLER,
JOHN L. MITCHELL,

Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Sir Knight GORHAM, for the special committee on unfinished business, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on unfinished business would respectfully report that they have examined the proceedings of 1888 and find no unfinished business.

Courteously submitted,

CHARLES E. GORHAM,
THOMAS MONROE,
MURDO McDONALD,
Committee.

TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.

Sir Knight Wm. B. WILSON, Past Grand Commander, for the special committee to whom was referred that part of the Grand Commander's address relating to conflict of jurisdiction between the commanderies at Adrian and Ann Arbor, submitted the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee to whom was referred the question of jurisdiction between Adrian and Ann Arbor commanderies, beg leave to report as follows:

After hearing the statements from representatives of both of said commanderies, we find so little disagreement, and the distance so nearly equal, that it is difficult to determine the actual jurisdiction of each commandery; and believing it to be in the interest of templar masonry, harmony and good will between the said commanderies, would recommend that concurrent jurisdiction be and is hereby given to Adrian commandery, No. 4, and Ann Arbor commandery, No. 13, over the village of Manchester.

Courteously submitted,

SAMUEL C. RANDALL,
WILLIAM B. WILSON,
CHARLES F. FLETCHER,
Committee.

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

Sir Knight LLOYD B. HESS, chairman of special committee on next place of meeting, submitted the following report, which was accepted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee to whom was referred the place of meeting of the Grand Commandery in 1890, beg leave to report. The following places have been urged upon your committee: Kalamazoo offers a new asylum now in process of construction including an elevator. Hotel accommodations unequalled.

Detroit offers the use of the masonic cathedral for the meetings of the Grand Commandery, with the attractions of the metropolis.

Lansing urges the capital city as the next place of meeting, as at the time of said meeting the use of the legislative hall can be secured for

the meetings of the Grand Commandery, and assure your committee that the hotel accommodations shall be ample.

Bay City has also cordially invited the Grand Commandery to meet at that place.

Your committee, having considered the different localities with their accommodations, attractions, conveniences, etc., would respectfully recommend that the next meeting of this Grand Commandery be held at Kalamazoo.

Courteously submitted,

LLOYD B. HESS,
WASHINGTON W. OLIN,
CLARENCE H. OLDS,

Committee.

On motion to adopt same, amendments were proposed naming Adrian, and other points. After much discussion the city of Detroit was decided upon as the next place of meeting, instead of Kalamazoo, as recommended by the committee.

RESOLUTIONS.

Sir Knight LUMAN R. ATWATER, Past Grand Commander, offered the following resolutions, which were accepted and adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be instructed to procure and present to R. E. Sir CHARLES P. BIGELOW an appropriate Past Grand Commander's jewel, as a token of the appreciation of this Grand Commandery of the zeal with which he has discharged his duties the past year, and as an earnest of their good wishes for his future welfare.

Resolved, That the sum of three hundred dollars be paid the Grand Recorder for services and office rent, the past year.

Resolved, That the sum of fifteen dollars be paid the Grand Sentinel for services during this conclave, in addition to the per diem and mileage paid representatives.

Resolved That the sum of ten dollars be paid the janitor of this asylum for services rendered during the conclave.

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be instructed to have the usual number of proceedings of this conclave printed and distributed, and that the Grand Recorder be authorized to draw a warrant on the Grand Treasurer for the payment of the foregoing amounts.

THANKS.

On motion, the thanks of the Grand Commandery were tendered to DeMolai commandery, No. 5, for the use of their asylum for holding this conclave, and for the knightly courtesies shown the members of the Grand Commandery during their sojourn among them.

TEMPLAR DEAD.

Sir Knight WILLIAM C. MAYBURY, chairman of the standing committee on templar dead, submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee appointed to take under consideration and report on that portion of the Grand Commander's address relating to the templar dead, would respectfully report as follows:

We find that death has been busy, and many of our sister jurisdictions mourn the loss of esteemed and illustrious brethren.

The jurisdiction of Indiana mourns the death of Sir JOHN HENRY HESS, Past Grand Commander of the State, who died on May 25, A. D. 1888, in the sixty-third year of his age. Eminent Sir Hess was initiated as an Antered Apprentice Mason in Green Briar Lodge, No. 49, Louisburg, Virginia, in February, 1851, passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft in March following, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in April, 1851. He presided as Master of this lodge in 1855, taking his dimit therefrom in 1865. He affiliated with St. John's lodge, No. 20, of Columbus, Indiana. He was exalted in Clinton chapter, No. 40, Louisburg, in 1851, dimitting in 1865. He affiliated with Columbus chapter, No. 10, being elected High Priest of the chapter in 1866 and re-elected in 1867. Eminent Sir Hess received the orders of Christian knighthood in Baldwin commandery, No. 2, Shelbyville, Indiana, dimitting therefrom in 1867, to become a charter member and Eminent Commander of Thomas H. Lynch commandery, afterwards Columbus commandery, No. 14, at Columbus, Indiana. He was re-elected Eminent Commander in the years 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871 and 1872. He was elected R. E. Grand Commander of the State of Indiana, A. D. 1881. His associates bear testimony that he fulfilled every masonic obligation resting upon him in such a manner as to reflect credit upon himself and honor to the fraternity. A fine teacher, both of precept and by his example, in all that pertains to our mystic order, worthy to be imitated and lovingly remembered.

Iowa reports as missing from the lines Sir OZIAS PHELPS WATERS, Past Grand Commander of that jurisdiction. Sir WATERS was Grand Master of Masons in Iowa in the years 1871, 1872 and 1873; Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Iowa in 1868, 1869 and 1870; serving also as Grand Senior Warden, Grand Captain General, Deputy Grand Commander, and, at last, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery for the years 1875 and 1876. He died at Burlington, Iowa, on June 28, 1888, with the record among his brethren of having been a zealous and devoted mason, and, by his blameless life, leaving a legacy to enrich his masonic brethren.

The jurisdiction of Maryland reports the loss of Sir HENRY WHITE MAESTON, Past Grand Commander, who died on August 6, 1888. But few facts are recorded regarding the masonic life of our eminent frater. The limit of our praise must only be the high honor which the Sir Knights of Maryland, who knew him best, deemed him worthy to receive, and well may we suppose that with

"Life's duties all performed,
Life's labor done,
Serenely to his rest he has passed,
While the memory of his virtues lingers as the twilight
Lingers when the sun is set."

The jurisdiction of New York reports a treble affliction in the death of three illustrious brothers. Sir FRANK L. STOWELL died at the city of Charlotte, North Carolina, on February 9, 1888, in the sixty-second year of his age. He received his blue lodge degrees in Alleghany lodge, No. 225, at Friendship, New York, in 1851. Afterwards affiliated with Olean lodge, No. 252, of which, in 1852, he became Worshipful Master. Received his capitular degrees in Wellsville chapter, No. 150, in 1868, serving as High Priest in 1869 and '70. Was created Knight of the Temple in St. John's commandery, No. 24, in 1856. Served as Eminent Commander from 1864 to 1867. Was elected Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Commandery in 1865, and by successive promotions attained the honorable position of Grand Commander of the State of New York in 1872. He was also a member of the co-ordinate Scottish Rite bodies at Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, and an honorary member of the Supreme Council of the 33°.

Eminent Sir CHARLES AIKMAN departed this life in the city of Brooklyn, on July 30, 1888, in his sixty-eighth year. He was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on June 21, 1865, in Hyatt lodge, No. 205, from which he dimitted October 30, 1882, and affiliated with DeWitt Clinton lodge, No. 453, December 20, of the same year. His capitular degrees were received in DeWitt Clinton chapter, No. 141, in

1865. He was created a Knight Templar in DeWitt commandery, No. 27, September 21, 1866. He served in several of the stations of the commandery, and was elected Eminent Commander in 1872, serving in this position for a period of four years. At the conclave of the Grand Commandery in 1876 he was elected Grand Warder, and advanced by successive steps until, in 1883, he was elected Grand Commander.

Eminent Sir JOHN W. SIMONS, died at Central Valley, on October 23, 1888. In 1844 he received his blue lodge degrees. He received the capitular degrees in 1848, and the Order of the Temple in 1849. He was Grand Master of Masons in 1860, Grand High Priest in 1869 and '70, and Grand Master of Knights Templar in 1865 and '66. He served for many years as chairman of the committee on correspondence in the Grand Lodge and the Grand Commandery of his State; also as chairman of the committee on jurisprudence of the Grand Commandery.

This splendid masonic record of our deceased fraters in the sister jurisdiction of New York, is the highest encomium that can be paid them, and fitting it is that we should draw from ancient type and sacred story the word that hallows their memory:

"And so JOSEPH died,
Beloved of God and man,
And they embalmed him."

For all these lamented and honored dead well may we say that all who enjoyed their acquaintance in life are stronger for having known them—the order of templar masonry is enriched by their lives, and the world is better for their having once living in it.

"After life's fitful fever they sleep well."

How fully and happily now they realize that:

"After the shower, the tranquil sun;
After the snow, the emerald leaves;
Silver stars after the day is done;
After the harvest, golden sheaves.

"After the clouds, the violet sky;
After the tempest, the hill of waves;
Quiet woods, when the winds go by;
After the battle, peaceful graves.

"After the burden, the blissful mead;
After the flight, the downy nest;
After the furrow, the waking seed;
After the shadowy river, rest."

Courteously submitted,

WILLIAM C. MAYBURY,
FRANCIS M. MOORE,
ALVA H. TRAVER,
Committee

RESOLUTION.

On motion of Sir Knight CHANDLER, Past Grand Commander, the amount expended by the Grand Commander during the year, visiting commanderies, etc., was allowed and ordered paid.

JOINT REPORT.

The joint committee on jurisprudence and subordinate returns, to whom was referred the apparent errors as shown in the report of the committee on subordinate returns, submitted the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your joint committee on masonic jurisprudence and returns of subordinates, beg leave to report: That they have had the question of annual dues upon members knighted during the year under consideration, and recommend that such dues be remitted for the past year.

Courteously submitted,

ARTHUR M. CLARK,
HENRY S. CHURCH,
GEORGE L. MCQUIGG,
Committee on Jurisprudence.

JOHN R. MINER,
ROBERT B. MCKNIGHT,
JOHN M. TRASK,
Committee on Subordinate Returns.

SUBORDINATE RETURNS.

The committee on subordinate returns then submitted the following report in accordance with the above report of the joint committee, which was accepted and adopted:

To the R. E. Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan:

Your committee on subordinate returns beg leave to report: That they have examined the returns of the subordinate commanderies and find the following errors:

No. 2. List of members incorrect.

- No. 6. One expelled not given in proper table.
- No. 7. Due No. 7, 75 cents.
- No. 9. List of members incorrect.
- No. 10. Due No. 10, \$2.50. List of members incorrect.
- No. 11. Due Grand Commandery, \$4.25.
- No. 18. Due No. 18, \$4.50.
- No. 19. No Sentinel reported.
- No. 24. Due No. 24, \$6.25.
- No. 25. Due No. 25, \$6.00.
- No. 29. Due No. 29, \$1.75.
- No. 33. Due Grand Commandery, 75 cents.
- No. 40. Due No. 40, \$8.00.

Courteously submitted,

JOHN R. MINER,
ROBERT B. MCKNIGHT,
JOHN M. TRASK,

Committee.

TIME OF MEETING.

On motion of Sir Knight CONOVER the hour of meeting of the next grand conclave was fixed at 2 P. M., meridian time, making the next meeting the third Tuesday in May, at the hour of 2 P. M.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

The R. E. Grand Commander requested Sir Knight HUGH McCURDY, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment of the United States, to install the officers elect, which he kindly consented to do, and appointed Sir Knight THOMAS H. WILLIAMS, Past Grand Commander, to act as Grand Marshal, whereupon the officers were installed; and after taking the vow of office, repaired to their several stations, and assumed their respective duties.

CLOSING.

The Grand Recorder announced that there was no further business before the Grand Commandery, whereupon the Grand Commander, Sir JOHN A. GEROW, proceeded to close the Grand Commandery in *Ample Form*, divine bene-

diction being invoked by the Sir Knights, who were led in solemn devotion by the Grand Prelate.



JOHN A. GEROW,

R. E. Grand Commander.

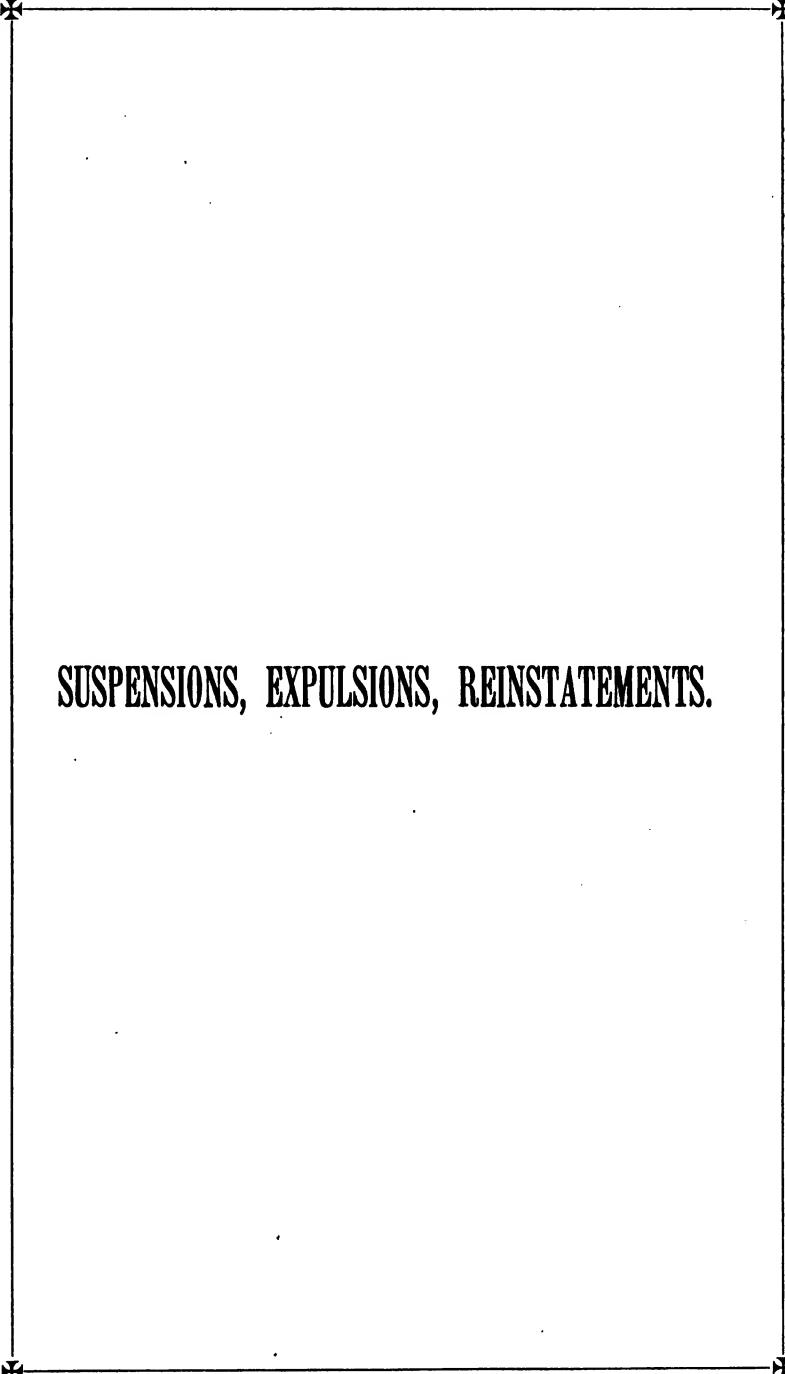
ATTEST:

WILLIAM P. INNES,

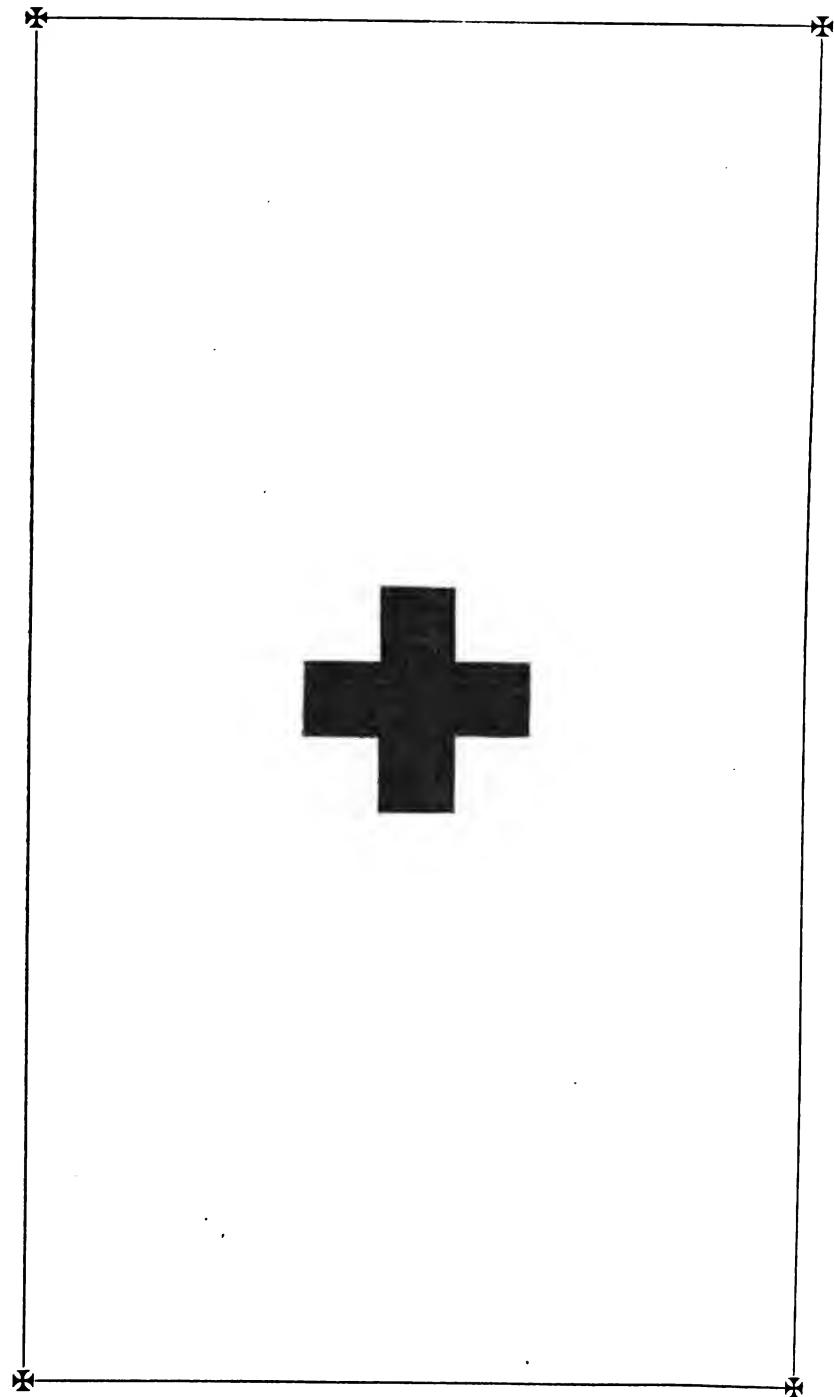
E. Grand Recorder.

The next conclave will be held on the third Tuesday in May, being May 20, 1890, commencing at the hour of 2 o'clock P. M., at Masonic Cathedral in the city of Detroit.





SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS, REINSTATEMENTS.



Suspensions and Expulsions for Non-Payment Dues.

Reported to the Grand Commandery by the subordinate commanderies within its jurisdiction, for the year ending May 1, A. D. 1889, A. O. 771:

DETROIT, NO. 1.

John Humphrey, Jr.,
William Penfield,
A. R. Winfield,
A. Ridley,
E. R. Parker,
E. B. Paxton,
George H. Parker,
Thomas Payne,
John J. Speed,
Fred G. Baker,
Otis Cushing,
W. H. Burke,
Henry Giest,
Alex. Mathewson,
F. B. Peck,
S. W. Lovett,
F. A. Witbeck,
John S. Wood,
T. J. Harrison,
B. F. Howland,
J. J. Bush,
Thomas Baggs,
Duncan M. Ashmore,
H. M. Curtis, all suspended.
F. J. F. Bradley, expelled by
lodge.

ROMEO, NO. 6.

Cornelius Crowley, suspended by
chapter.

B. B. Ketcham, suspended by
lodge.
William L. Abbott,
James H. Boden,
C. R. Greene, all suspended.

PORT HURON NO. 7.

Frank Granger,
Benjamin C. Miller, both sus-
pended by lodge.
D. B. Charleson,
C. D. Kinney,
F. C. Leighton,
R. L. Miller,
George H. Wood,
Allen Aiken, all suspended.

PENINSULAR, NO. 8.

J. M. Dillon, suspended by chap-
ter.

JACKSON, NO. 9.

O. F. Pease,
D. S. Holcomb,
H. E. Southworth,
A. E. Sutton,
W. W. Dunning,
C. C. Walker,
D. C. Pierce,
W. L. Richardson, all suspended.

NILES, NO. 12.

Charles J. Sterling,

Edward S. Jewett,	MONROE, NO. 19.
Charles H. Griffith,	Henry P. Harrington, suspended.
Cholwell Knox,	LEXINGTON, NO. 27.
William J. Cummings, all suspended.	
ANN ARBOR, NO. 13.	James A. Ross,
Edward H. Hudson, suspended by lodge.	R. C. Kinney,
GENESEE VALLEY, NO. 15.	Samuel E. Carr,
William H. Foote, suspended by chapter.	George McKay,
Martin A. Reese, suspended.	William J. Fraleigh,
ST. BERNARD, NO. 16.	John Law,
George P. Mickley, suspended by chapter.	Louis Charboneau,
	Robert S. Brown,
	Frank T. Smith,
	J. W. McMahon, all suspended.

Suspensions and Expulsions for Unmasonic Conduct.

Reported to the Grand Commandery by the subordinate commanderies within its jurisdiction, for the year ending May 1, A. D. 1889, A. O. 771:

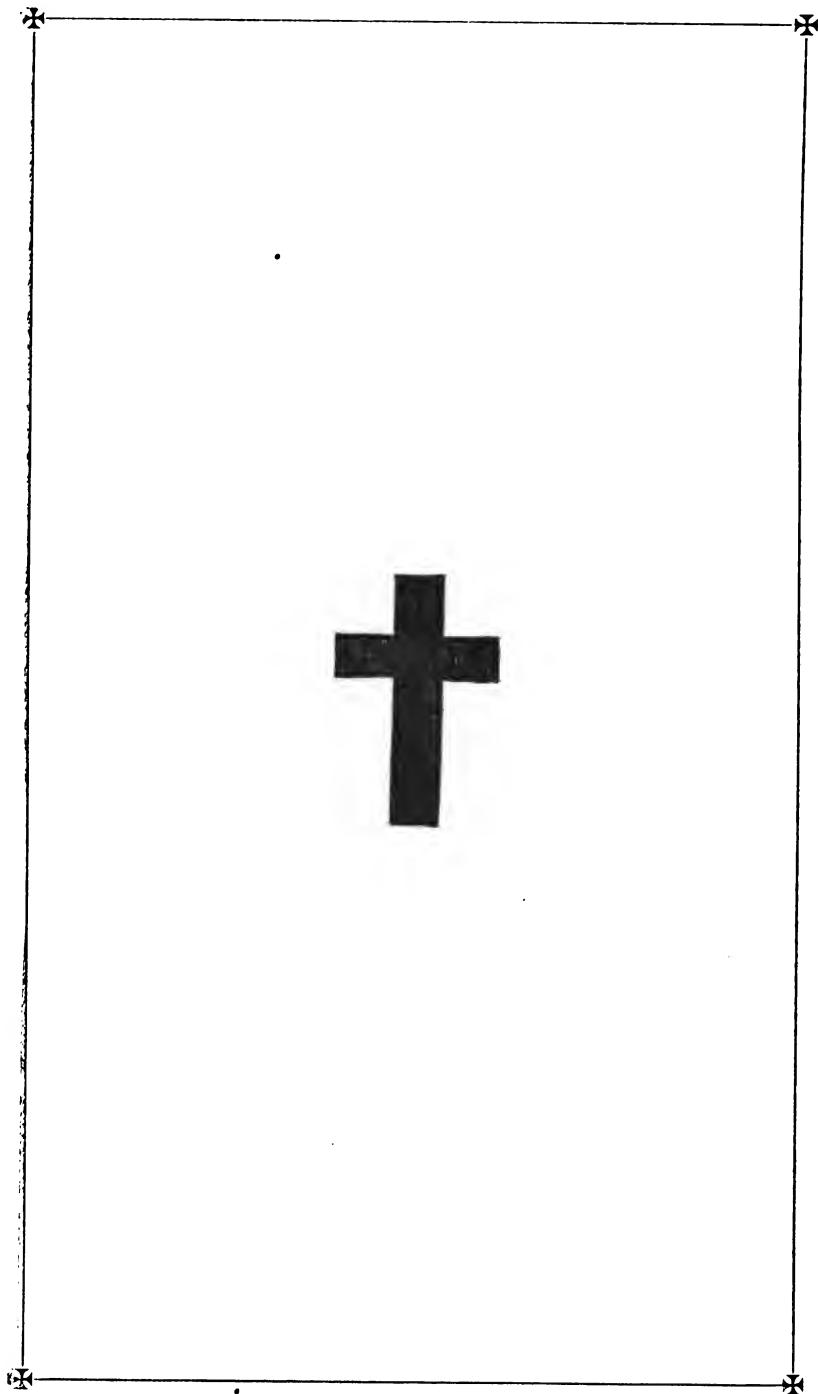
DETROIT, NO. 1.	ST. JOHNS, NO. 24.
William F. Craig, expelled.	George Randel, suspended.
ROMEO, NO. 6.	MANISTEE, NO. 32.
Alexander Scott, suspended.	A. S. Haines, suspended by chapter.
PILGRIM, NO. 23.	
George D. Miles, expelled.	

Reinstatements.

Reported to the Grand Commandery by the subordinate commanderies within its jurisdiction, for the year ending May 1, A. D. 1889, A. O. 771:

PONTIAC, NO. 2.	PENINSULAR, NO. 8.
A. S. Matthews, August 7, 1888.	Joseph Adolphus, August 3, 1888.
ADRIAN, NO. 4.	JACKSON, NO. 9.
George Wagner, Feb. 15, 1889.	S. H. Babcock, Dec. 24, 1888.

RECAPITULATION OF RETURNS.



RECAPITULATION OF ANNUAL RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES FOR THE YEAR 1889.

NAME AND LOCATION.	NUMBER OF COMMANDERIES.	KINGTEES.		REINSTATED.	DIMITTERED.	ADMITTED FROM OTHER COMMANDERIES.	ADMITTED FROM OTHER COMMANDERIES.		MEMBERS.	EXPENSES FOR U. M. C. SUSPENDED P. D.	DUES AS REPORTED.	EMINENT COMMANDER.	Recorder.	
		1	2				3	4						
Detroit, Detroit.....	9	1	2				24	2	2	307	\$ 240 75	Wm. C. Maybury.....	Wm. C. Anderson	
Pontiac, Pontiac.....	3	1	3							104	81 00	George H. Foster.....	Melvin D. Sly.....	
Eureka, Hilldale.....	6		6						1	96	78 75	Chauncey F. Cook.....	Zimri D. Thomas.....	
Adrian, Adrian.....	8		1	4						138	112 75	Wm. F. King.....	Bernard H. Rupp.....	
DeMolay, Grand Rapids.....	6	2	1							230	178 50	Richard D. Swarzout.....	Edward D. Benedict.....	
Romeo, Romeo.....	4		1				5	1		68	51 50	James Gray.....	Marvil I. Brabb.....	
Port Huron, Port Huron.....	1		3				8		2	67	61 50	Wm. F. Ernst.....	Frank E. Wellington.....	
Peninsular, Kalamazoo.....	13	1	1	2			1		4	213	176 25	Washington W. Olin.....	Thomas J. Herson.....	
Jackson, Jackson.....	11		1	6			8		3	195	159 25	Alva H. Traver.....	A. D. Lathrop.....	
Jacobs, Coldwater.....	7	1		2						102	87 00	Thomas A. Hilton.....	David Bovee.....	
Ionia, Ionia.....	7			2					1	94	74 26	H. R. Harris.....	Thomas H. Malone.....	
Niles, Niles.....	7	2		8			5			96	80 00	Wellington S. Wells.....	Edward M. LaPierre.....	
Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor.....	17	1		1			1		2	138	124 75	Charles E. Hiscock.....	John R. Miner.....	
Fenton, Fenton.....							3			2	50	38 75	Wilford P. Cook.....	Walter W. Millard.....
Genesee Valley, Flint.....	2	8		2			2		1	121	92 50	Henry C. VanDeusen.....	Lorenzo D. Cook.....	
St. Bernard, East Saginaw.....	15	3		1			1		4	163	140 25	Robert B. McKnight.....	John G. McCall.....	

RECAPITULATION OF ANNUAL RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES—CONTINUED.

NAME AND LOCATION.	KNOTCHES.	ADMITTED FROM OTHER COMMANDERIES	REINSTATED.	DISMISSED.	SUSPENDED FOR U. S. C.	DISPENDED FOR N. P. D.	DISPENDED.	DISMEMBERED.	DISMEMBERS.	DISMEMBERS AS REPORTED.	EMINENT COMMANDER.	RECODER.	
17 Marshall, Marshall.....	2	.....	2	.....	2	82	63	25	Charles E. Gorham.....	Will A. Coles.....		
18 Columbia, Sturgis.....	6	1	4	.....	.....	68	63	25	Thomas J. Collins.....	Henry S. Church.....		
19 Monroe, Monroe.....	2	.....	1	.....	1	50	39	25	Thomas R. Waters.....	J. G. Brainerd.....		
21 Corunna, Corunna.....	4	.....	.....	.....	2	82	65	70	Geo. R. Black.....	A. A. Harper.....		
22 Muskegon, Muskegon.....	23	.....	5	.....	3	153	141	60	Thomas Munroe.....	Wm. McComb.....		
23 Pilgrim, Big Rapids.....	7	.....	2	.....	1	108	85	25	Clarence H. Olds.....	Charlie Gay.....		
24 St. Johns, St. Johns.....	9	.....	1	1	1	120	107	25	Murdo McDonald.....	Geo. H. Marshall.....		
25 Lansing, Lansing.....	8	2	4	.....	.....	91	88	50	Mayton J. Buck.....	Geo. A. Hasty.....		
26 Bay City, Bay City.....	17	6	8	189	162	26	John W. Cupit.....	Frank L. Wanda.....		
27 Lexington, Lexington.....	4	.....	1	10	1	54	44	75	Shubal D. Runnels.....	W. J. Baker.....		
28 Howell, Howell.....	9	.....	4	.....	.....	47	45	75	John W. Wright.....	Wm. M. Force.....		
29 Three Rivers, Three Rivers.....	5	1	1	2	102	81	75	W. E. Clark.....	Henry P. Barrows.....		
30 Lake Superior, Marquette.....	11	1	1	103	90	25	Francis M. Moore.....	A. Samuel Parks.....		
31 Apollo, Ludington.....	2	63	49	00	Louis C. Waldo.....	James A. Armstrong.....		
32 Manistee, Manistee.....	2	1	1	2	67	53	00	Edward D. Wheeler.....	Geo. R. Giessman.....		
33 Battle Creek, Battle Creek.....	6	1	1	1	1	65	63	50	Augustus F. Bock.....	Eugene Glass.....		

RECAPITULATION OF ANNUAL RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES—CONTINUED.

NAME AND LOCATION.	NUMBER OF COMMANDERS	KINGTHERD.	ADMITTED FROM OTHER COMMANDERS	REINSTATED.	DIMITTERD.	SUSPENDED FOR U. M. C.	SUSPENDED FOR N. P. D.	EXPELLBD.	DUED.	MEMBERS.	DUES AS REPORTED.	EMINENT COMMANDER.	RECODER.						
34 Alpena, Alpena.....	12	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	67	\$ 64 50	John N. Kelley.....	Charles B. Greely.....
35 Menominee, Menominee.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62	50 75	James A. Crozer.....	Leopold Jackman.....
36 Ivanhoe, Petoskey.....	11	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61	58 75	James Buckley.....	Clay E. Call.....
37 Charlotte, Charlotte.....	8	1	2	2	86	73 00	Philip T. VanZile.....	Homer Green.....					
38 *Montrose, Calumet.....	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	77	69 50	John Duncan.....	J. P. North.....
39 Northville, Northville.....	11	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	49	49 00	James M. Collier.....	Charles R. Stevens.....
40 Ithaca, Ithaca.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41	43 00	Orrin H. Heath.....	James B. Crawford.....
39	291	32	4	74	2	66	4	41	4058	\$3,400 45

* Location changed from Hancock to Calumet at session of May 21, 1889.



ELECTED OFFICERS.

**ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND DATE OF SERVICE
SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION, JANUARY 16, 1857.**

YEAR.	GRAND COMMANDER.	Deputy GRAND COMMANDER.	GRAND GENERALISSIMO.	GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL.	GRAND PARKLATE.
1857	John Gilbert, Jr.	*E. D. Cone.	William P. Innes.	*James Dartah.	Rev. D. C. Jacobs.
1858	*Nathaniel P. Jacobs.	William P. Innes.	*Francis Darrow.	Theron A. Flower.	Rev. D. C. Jacobs.
1859	*Nathaniel P. Jacobs.	William P. Innes.	*Francis Darrow.	*John Clark.	*Rev. D. S. Lumaden.
1860	William P. Innes.	*Francis Darrow.	*John Clark.	Luman R. Atwater.	Rev. D. Burnham Tracy.
1861	*Francis Darrow.	*John Clark.	Luman R. Atwater.	D. Burnham Tracy.	Rev. D. Brayton Lyon.
1862	*John Clark.	Luman R. Atwater.	D. Burnham Tracy.	Benjamin Porter.	Rev. D. Brayton Lyon.
1863	Luman R. Atwater.	D. Burnham Tracy.	Benjamin Porter.	George A. Fitch.	Rev. D. Brayton Lyon.
1864	Benjamin Porter.	George A. Fitch.	Garra B. Noble.	*Seamon L. Dart.	A. J. Eldred.
1865	Garra B. Noble.	*Seamon L. Dart.	Edward D. Benedict.	William F. King.	John H. Armstrong.
1866	*Seamon L. Dart.	Edward D. Benedict.	William F. King.	*Charles J. Kruger. ....	||Charles J. Kruger.
1867	Edward D. Benedict.	William F. King.	John H. Armstrong.	John H. Armstrong.	Rev. William Stowe.
1868	John H. Armstrong.	Theron A. Flower.	Augustine G. Hubbard.	John L. Mitchell.	Rev. William Stowe.
1869	Theron A. Flower.	John L. Mitchell.	David Bovee.	Lewis C. Starkey.	*Rev. Israel Cogshall.
1870	John L. Mitchell.	David Bovee.	Lewis C. Starkey. ....	||Ellery L. Garfield.	*Rev. Israel Cogshall.
1871	*Irving M. Smith.	Lewis C. Starkey.	Oliver L. Spaulding. ....	||Ellery L. Garfield.	Rev. A. J. Davis.
1872	Oliver L. Spaulding. ....	||Ellery L. Garfield.	Leonard H. Randall.	Salmon S. Matthews.	Rev. A. J. Davis.
1873	||Ellery L. Garfield.	Leonard H. Randall.	Samuel C. Randall.	Samuel S. Matthews.	Rev. A. J. Davis.

ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MICHIGAN, DATE OF SERVICE, ETC.—CONTINUED.

YEAR.	GRAND COMMANDER.	DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER.	GRAND GENERALISSIMO.	GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL.	GRAND PRELATE.
1874	Leonard H. Randall.....	Charles T. Hills.....	Samuel C. Randall.....	*Richard J. Carney.....	*Rev. W. R. Tillinghast.....
1875	Salmon S. Matthews.....	Samuel C. Randall.....	Hugh McCurdy.....	Hollis F. Knapp.....	*Rev. W. R. Tillinghast.....
1876	Samuel C. Randall.....	Hugh McCurdy.....	Hollis F. Knapp.....	Frank Henderson.....	*Rev. George W. Wilson.....
1877	Hugh McCurdy.....	Hollis F. Knapp.....	Frank Henderson.....	William B. Wilson.....	*Rev. George W. Wilson.....
1878	Hollis F. Knapp.....	Frank Henderson.....	William B. Wilson.....	Eugene Robinson.....	*Rev. George W. Wilson.....
1879	Frank Henderson.....	William B. Wilson.....	George W. Chandler.....	Eugene Robinson.....	||Rev. George D. L. Mortimer
1880	William B. Wilson.....	George W. Chandler.....	*Charles E. Grison.....	Eugene Robinson.....	*Rev. George W. Wilson.....
1881	George W. Chandler.....	*Charles E. Grison.....	Uessa E. Saxon.....	Eugene Robinson.....	Rev. Francis A. Blades.....
1882	*Charles E. Grison.....	Uessa E. Saxon.....	Heman N. Moore.....	Eugene Robinson.....	Rev. Francis A. Blades.....
1883	Uessa E. Saxon.....	Heman N. Moore.....	||R. Allen Hall.....	Eugene Robinson.....	Rev. Francis A. Blades.....
1884	Heman N. Moore.....	||R. Allen Hall.....	William S. Lawrence.....	Eugene Robinson.....	Rev. Francis A. Blades.....
1885	||R. Allen Hall.....	William S. Lawrence.....	Thomas H. Williams.....	Eugene Robinson.....	Rev. Francis A. Blades.....
1886	William S. Lawrence.....	Thomas H. Williams.....	Charles P. Bigelow.....	*Edward W. Kelly.....	Rev. Francis A. Blades.....
1887	Thomas H. Williams.....	Charles P. Bigelow.....	John A. Gerow.....	William G. Doty.....	Rev. Francis A. Blades.....
1888	Charles P. Bigelow.....	John A. Gerow.....	William G. Doty.....	Edward C. Smith.....	Rev. Francis A. Blades.....
1889	John A. Gerow.....	William G. Doty.....	Edward C. Smith.....	Jefferson S. Conover.....	Rev. Francis A. Blades.....

* Deceased.

† Expelled.

|| Removed from jurisdiction.

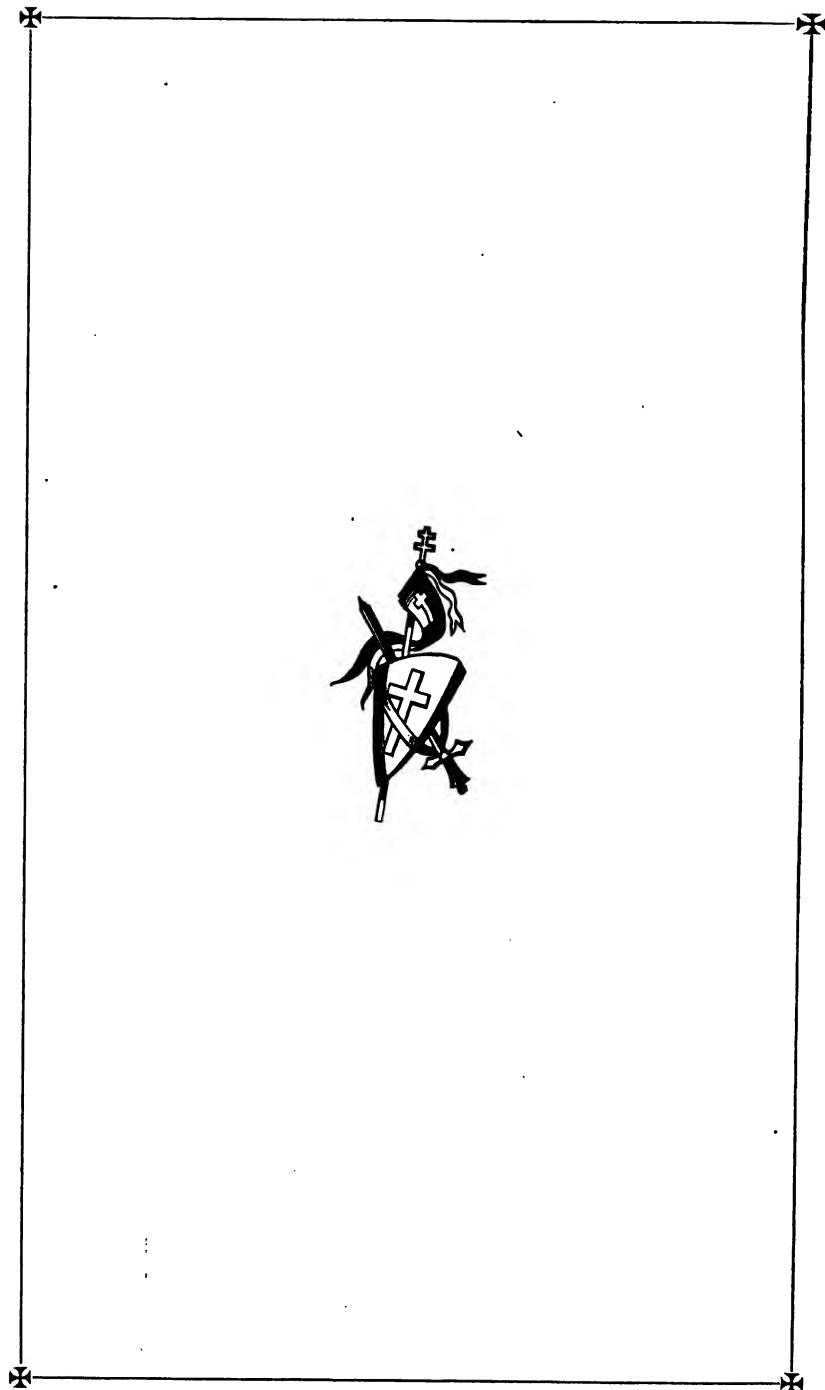
ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MICHIGAN, DATE OF SERVICE, ETC.—CONTINUED.

YEAR.	GRAND SENIOR WARDEN.	GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN.	GRAND TREASURER.	GRAND RECORDER.	DATE OF MEETING.
1857	§George W. Wilson.....	Theron A. Flower.....	*William Barclay.....	†Thomas Anderson.....	April 7,.....
1858	Luman R. Atwater.....	*John Clark.....	*William Barclay.....	§George W. Wilson.....	June 1,.....
1859	Luman R. Atwater.....	Theron A. Flower.....	*William Barclay.....	§George W. Wilson.....	June 7.....
1860	†A. B. Ayres.....	Franklin T. Eddy.....	*William Barclay.....	§George W. Wilson.....	June 6,.....
1861	†A. B. Ayres.....	*Seamon L. Dart.....	*William Barclay.....	§George W. Wilson.....	June 4,.....
1862	†A. B. Ayres.....	Alonzo Noble.....	*William Barclay.....	§George W. Wilson.....	June 3,.....
1863	Theron A. Flower.....	*Seamon L. Dart.....	*William Barclay.....	§George W. Wilson.....	June 2,.....
1864	Edward D. Benedict.....	William F. King.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 7,.....
1865	Charles J. Kruger.....	John L. Mitchell.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 6,.....
1866	John L. Mitchell.....	David Bovee.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 5,.....
1867	John L. Mitchell.....	David Bovee.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 4,.....
1868	David Bovee.....	Lewis C. Starkey.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 2,.....
1869	John Goldsmith, Jr.....	*Carlos G. Curtis.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 1,.....
1870	*Carlos G. Curtis.....	*Irving M. Smith.....	*William Barclay.....	Oliver Bourke.....	June 7,.....
1871	Leonard H. Randall.....	Samuel C. Randall II.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 6,.....
1872	Samuel C. Randall.....	*Richard J. Carney.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 4,.....
1873	*Richard J. Carney.....	*Charles E. Grisson.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 3,.....
1874	George W. Baker.....	James H. Kidd.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 2,.....

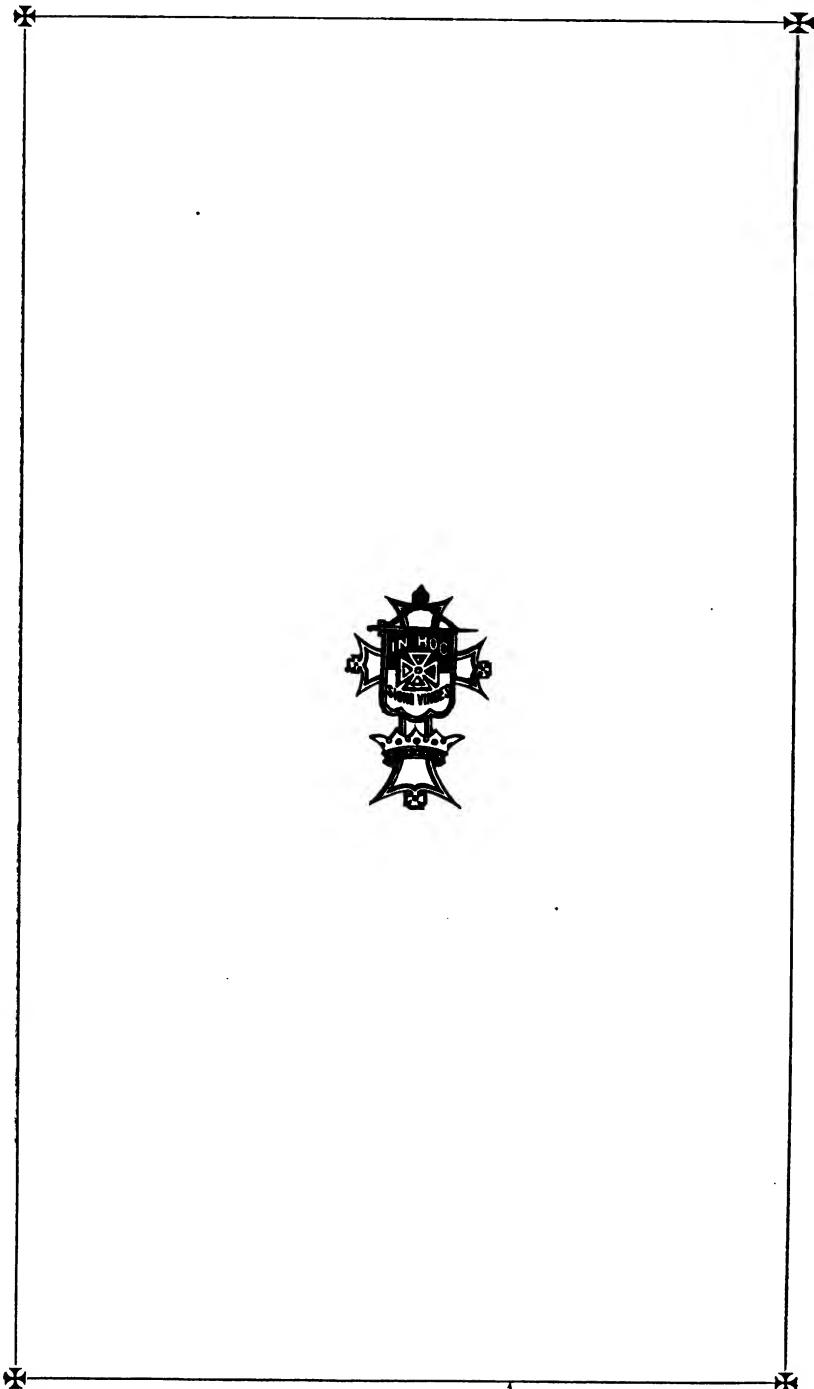
ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MICHIGAN, DATE OF SERVICE, ETC.—CONTINUED.

YEAR.	GRAND SENIOR WARDEN.	GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN.	GRAND TREASURER.	GRAND RECORDER.	DATE OF MEETING.
1875	Frank Henderson.....	William B. Wilson.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 1.....
1876	William B. Wilson.....	Robert G. Chandler.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	June 6.....
1877	Robert G. Chandler.....	*James B. Newton.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	May 8.....
1878	George W. Chandler.....	*Charles E. Grisson.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	May 14.....
1879	*Charles E. Grisson.....	*Edward W. Kelly.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	May 18.....
1880	*Edward W. Kelley.....	Heman N. Moore.....	Martin S. Smith.....	William P. Innes.....	May 11.....
1881	Heman N. Moore.....	||R. Allen Hall.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 10.....
1882	||R. Allen Hall.....	John R. Bennett.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 9.....
1883	John R. Bennett.....	William S. Lawrence.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 8.....
1884	Thomas H. Williams.....	Charles P. Bigelow.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 18.....
1885	Charles P. Bigelow.....	John A. Gerow.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 12.....
1886	John A. Gerow.....	William G. Doty.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 11.....
1887	Edward C. Smith.....	Jefferson S. Conover.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 10.....
1888	Jefferson S. Conover.....	Henry L. Anthony.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 15.....
1889	Henry L. Anthony.....	Chas. H. Pomeroy.....	H. Shaw Noble.....	William P. Innes.....	May 21.....

*Deceased. || Removed from jurisdiction. † Expelled. § Suspended.



DATE OF ORGANIZATION.



DATE OF ORGANIZATION, WITH NAME AND ADDRESS OF GRAND COMMANDERS AND GRAND RECORDER,
ALSO CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE, FROM THE LATEST PROCEEDINGS RECEIVED SINCE LAST REPORT.

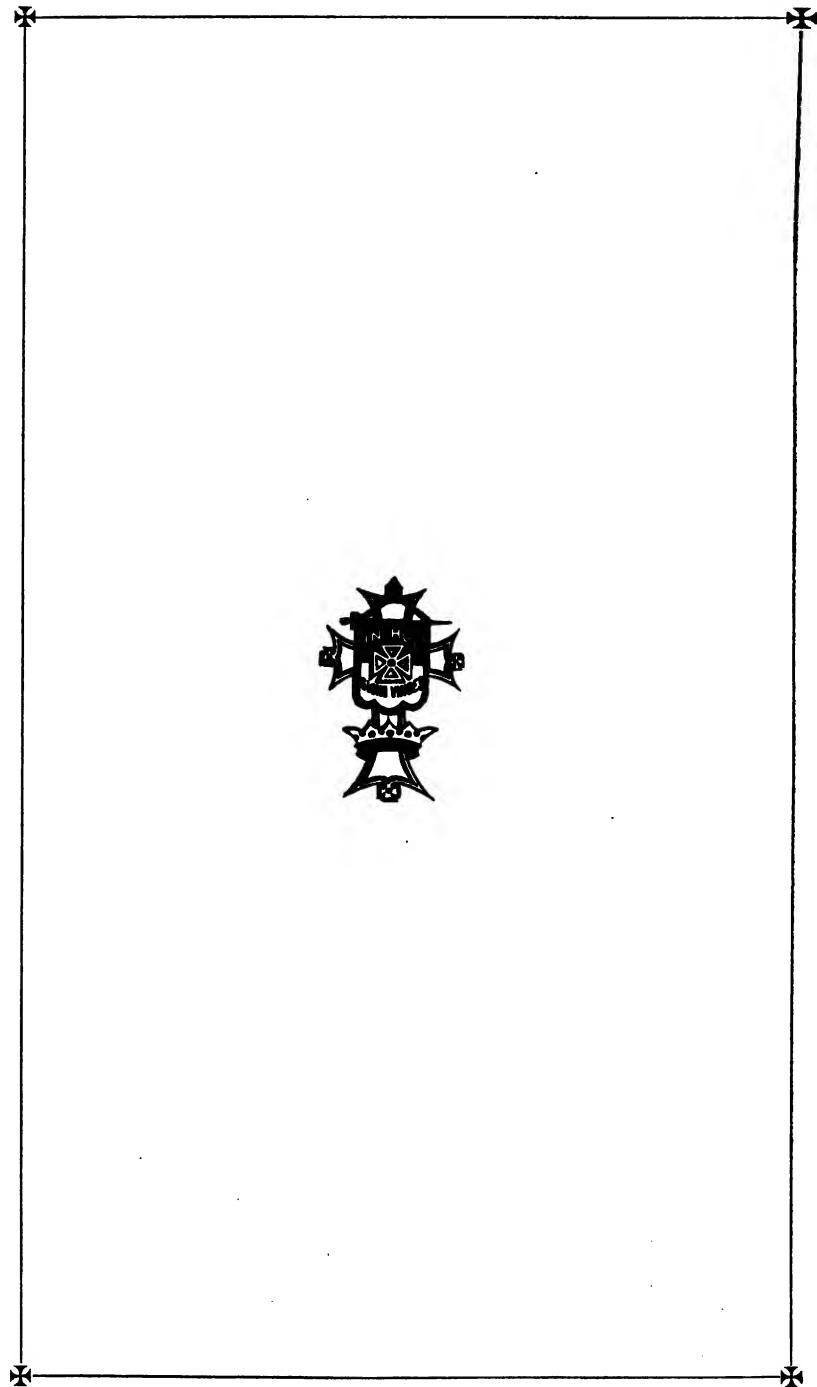
GRAND COMMANDERS.	DATE OF ORGANIZATION.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF R. E. GRAND COMMANDER.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF E. GRAND RECORDER.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.
Alabama.....	December 1, 1862	Henry C. Davidson, Montgomery.....	Edmund R. Hastings, Montgomery.....	George F. Moore, Montgomery.....
Arkansas.....	March 26, 1872	George L. Kimball, Dardanelle.....	James A. Henry, Little Rock.....	James A. Henry, Little Rock
California.....	August 10, 1868	Tristem Burges, San Jose.....	Thomas H. Caswell, San Francisco.....	Thomas H. Caswell, San Francisco...
Colorado.....	March 14, 1876	James H. Peabody, Canon City.....	Ed. C. Parmelee, Pueblo.....	Harper M. Orohood, Denver.....
Connecticut.....	September 13, 1827	Charles B. Ware, New London.....	Joseph K. Wheeler, Hartford.....	Joseph K. Wheeler, Hartford.....
Dakota.....	May 14, 1864	William D. Sites, Sioux City.....	Bruce M. Rowley, Huron.....	Daniel S. Glidden, Sioux City.....
Georgia.....	April 26, 1860	James L. Fleming, Augusta.....	Samuel P. Hamilton, Savannah.....	Samuel P. Hamilton, Savannah.....
Illinois.....	October 27, 1857	Norman T. Gassette, Chicago.....	Gilbert W. Bernard, Chicago.....	John C. Smith, Chicago
Indiana.....	May 16, 1854	Duncan T. Bacon, Indianapolis.....	William H. Smythe, Indianapolis.....	Nicholas R. Ruckle, Indianapolis.....
Iowa.....	June 16, 1864	Clark Varnum, Newton.....	Alf. Wingate, Des Moines.....	T. R. Ercanbrack, Anamosa.....
Kansas.....	December 29, 1868	Theo. P. Rodgers, Topeka.....	John H. Brown, Kansas City	John H. Brown, Kansas City
Kentucky.....	October 5, 1847	John G. Montgomery, Cynthiana.....	Lorenzo D. Croninger, Covington	Charles R. Woodruff, Louisville.....
Louisiana.....	February 4, 1864	David R. Graham, New Orleans.....	Richard Lambot, New Orleans	Joseph P. Horner, New Orleans
Maine.....	May 6, 1852	Joseph A. Locke, Portland.....	Ira Berry, Portland	Stephen Berry, Portland
Maryland.....	January 23, 1827	Charles McDonald, Jr., Baltimore.....	John H. Miller, Baltimore	F. J. S. Gorgas, Baltimore
Massachusetts and Rhode Island {	May 6, 1805	Edward L. Freeman, Central Falls.....	Alfred F. Chapman, Boston	Alfred F. Chapman, Boston

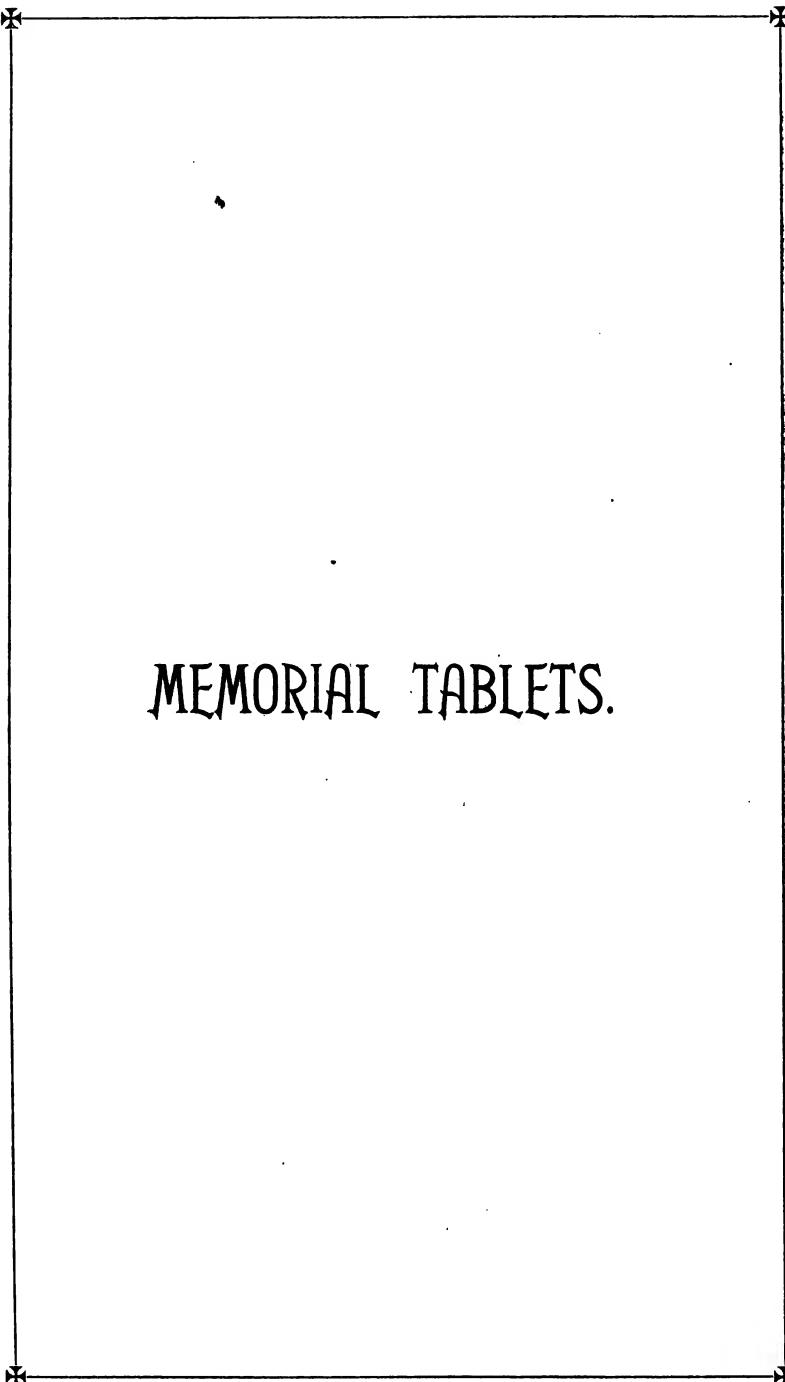
DATE OF ORGANIZATION, WITH NAME AND ADDRESS OF GRAND COMMANDERS, ETC.—CONTINUED.

GRAND COMMANDERIES.	DATE OF ORGANIZATION.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF R. E. GRAND COMMANDER.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF E. GRAND RECORDER.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.
Michigan.....	January 16, 1857.....	John A. Gerow, Marshall.....	William P. Innes, Grand Rapids.....	William P. Innes, Grand Rapids.....
Minnesota.....	October 28, 1865.....	John A. Schleener, Minneapolis.....	A. T. C. Pierson, St. Paul.....	A. T. C. Pierson, St. Paul.....
Mississippi.....	January 22, 1857.....	Frederic Speed, Vicksburg.....	John L. Power, Jackson.....	E. Geo. DeLap, Natchez.....
Missouri.....	May 22, 1860.....	Allan McDowell, St. Louis.....	William H. Mayo, St. Louis.....	William H. Mayo, St. Louis.....
Montana.....	May 14, 1888.....	Andrew J. Fisk, Helena.....	Cornelius Hedges, Helena.....	William R. Bowen, Omaha.....
Nebraska.....	December 28, 1871.....	John J. Wemple, Hastings.....	William R. Bowen, Omaha.....	William R. Bowen, Omaha.....
New Hampshire.....	August 22, (1821)-1860.....	John James Bell, Exeter.....	George P. Cleaves, Concord.....	John James Bell, Exeter.....
New Jersey.....	February 14, 1860.....	Albert D. Winfield, Paterson.....	Charles Bechtel, Trenton.....	Charles Bechtel, Trenton.....
New York.....	June 18, 1813.....	Austin C. Wood, Syracuse.....	Robert Macy, Brooklyn.....	Robert Macy, Brooklyn.....
North Carolina.....	May 10, 1881.....	John A. Porter, Asheville.....	Horace H. Munson, Wilmington.....	Horace H. Munson, Wilmington.....
Ohio.....	October 24, 1848.....	William T. Walker, Toledo.....	John N. Bell, Dayton.....	John N. Bell, Dayton.....
Oregon.....	April 13, 1887.....	Christopher Taylor, Dayton.....	Fremon J. Babcock, Salem.....	Fremon J. Babcock, Salem.....
Pennsylvania.....	April 11, 1844.....	William W. Allen, Philadelphia.....	Charles E. Meyer, Philadelphia.....	Charles E. Meyer, Philadelphia.....
Tennessee.....	October 12, 1859.....	William C. Smith, Nashville.....	George C. Connor, Chattanooga.....	George C. Connor, Chattanooga.....
Texas.....	January 19, 1855.....	Charles Davis, El Paso.....	Robert Brewster, Houston.....	Robert Brewster, Houston.....
Vermont.....	August 14, (1824)-1831.....	Delos M. Bacon, St. Johnsbury.....	Warren G. Reynolds, Burlington.....	Frederick S. Fisher, St. Johnsbury.....

DATE OF ORGANIZATION, WITH NAME AND ADDRESS OF GRAND COMMANDERS, ETC.—CONTINUED.

GRAND COMMANDARIES.	DATE OF ORGANIZATION.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF R. E. GRAND COMMANDER.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF E. GRAND RECORDER.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.
Virginia	November 27, 1822.....	James Lee Beck, Lynchburg	William B. Isaacs, Richmond	Thomas M. Reed, Olympia
Washington	June 2, 1887	Alfred L. Palmer, Seattle	Thomas M. Reed, Olympia	R. C. Dunnington, Fairmount
West Virginia.....	February 25, 1874.....	W. G. Bennett, Weston	R. C. Dunnington, Fairmount	R. C. Dunnington, Fairmount
Wisconsin	October 28, 1859.....	Chandler P. Chapman, Madison	John W. Lafin, Milwaukee	W. C. Swain, Milwaukee
Wyoming Territory	March 8, 1888	William H. Smith, Rawlins	John K. Jeffrey, Cheyenne	John C. Baird, Laramie
Grand Encampment	June 21, 1816	Charles Roome, New York City	William B. Isaacs, Richmond, Va.....	Henry Robertson, Collingwood, Ont.....
Great Priory of Canada.	October 9, 1896.....	W. J. B. MacLeod Moore, Prescott, Ont.....	Daniel Spy, Barrie, Ont.....	W. Tinckler, 3 and 4 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C.....
Great Priory of England and Wales		Col. Shadwell H. Clarke, London.....		





MEMORIAL TABLETS.





IMMORTALITY

Beloved Dead
in
Sister
Jurisdictions



IMMORTALITY

The Beloved Dead
Within our Grand Jurisdiction

DETROIT, No. 1

Alex. M. Gray, Nov. 9, 1888
Worth M. Lee, Dec. 7, 1888

EUREKA, No. 3

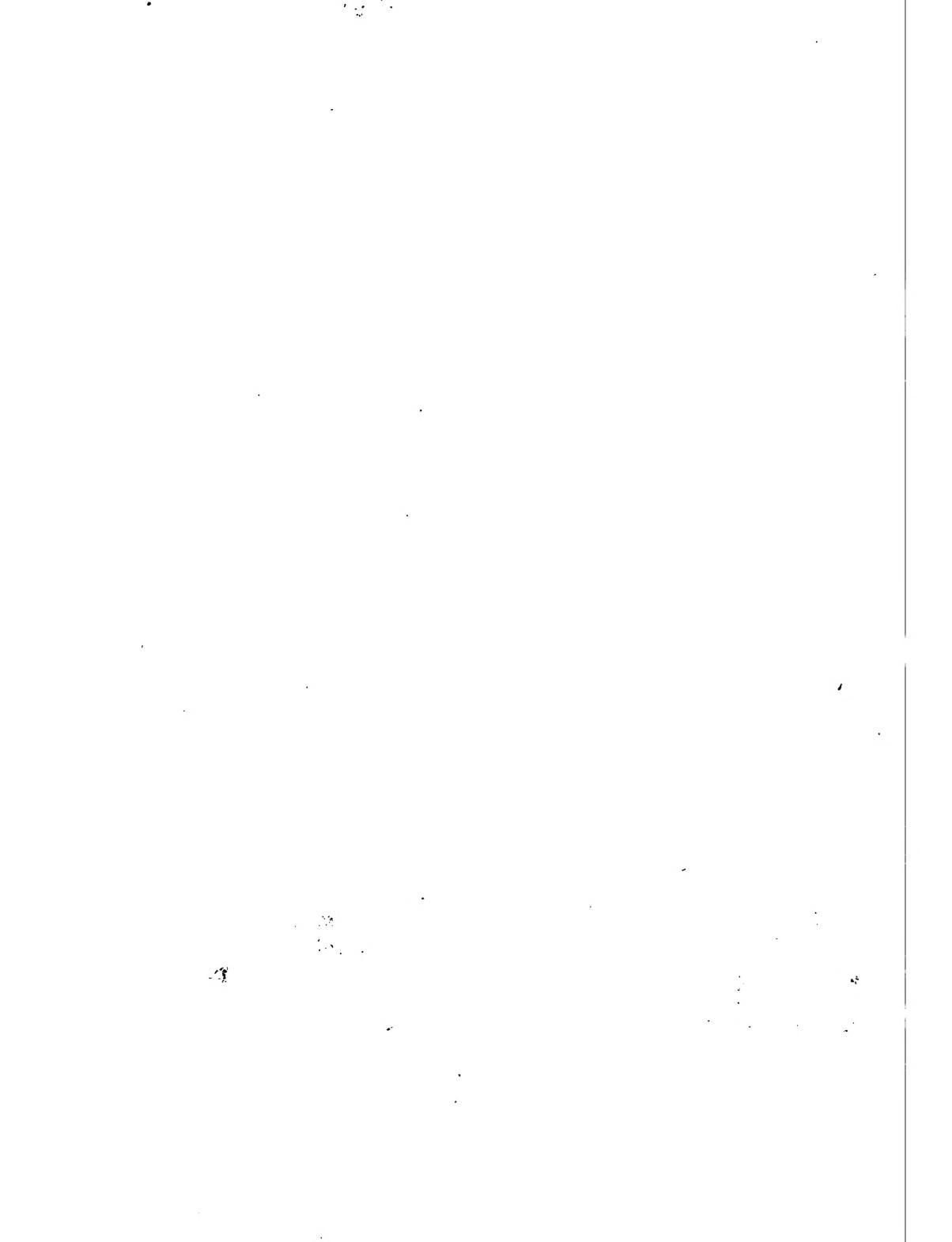
John W. Falley, April 10, 1888

PORT HURON, No. 7

Chas. Flugel, Oct. 5, 1888
Joseph E. Secord,
Jan. 12, 1889



K.D.





IMMORTALITY

The Beloved Dead
Within our Grand Jurisdiction

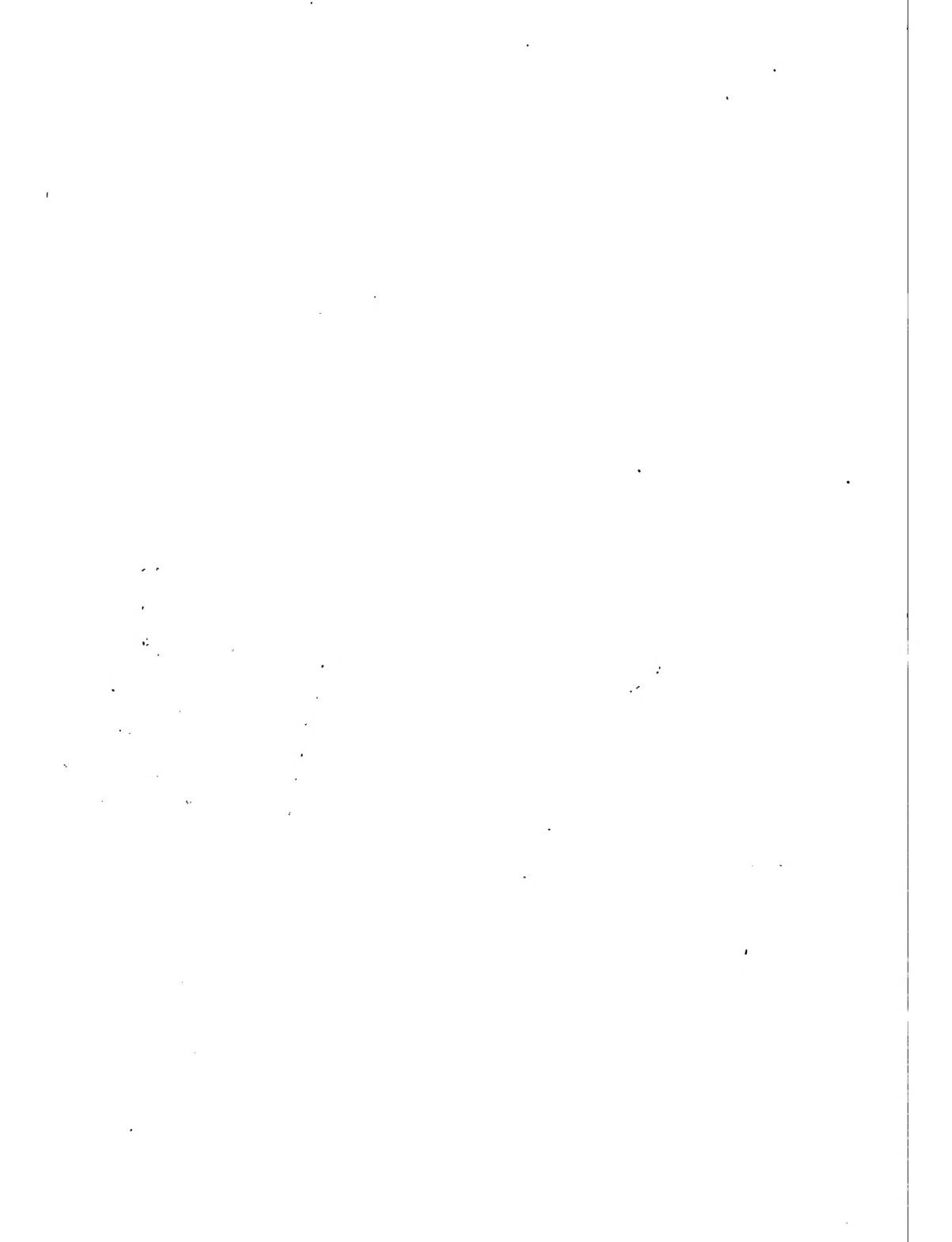
PENINSULAR NO. 8

H. M. Wynkoop, May 22, 1888
Daniel Cahill, June 29, 1888
Hugh Rollins, Sept. 16, 1888
A. D. Allen, Dec. 20, 1888

JACKSON NO. 9

Jas. Gould, Aug. 16, 1888
L. H. Ludlow, Dec. 30, 1888
M. Dwelle, Dec. 31, 1888







IONIA NO. 11

John Kopf, June 24, 1888

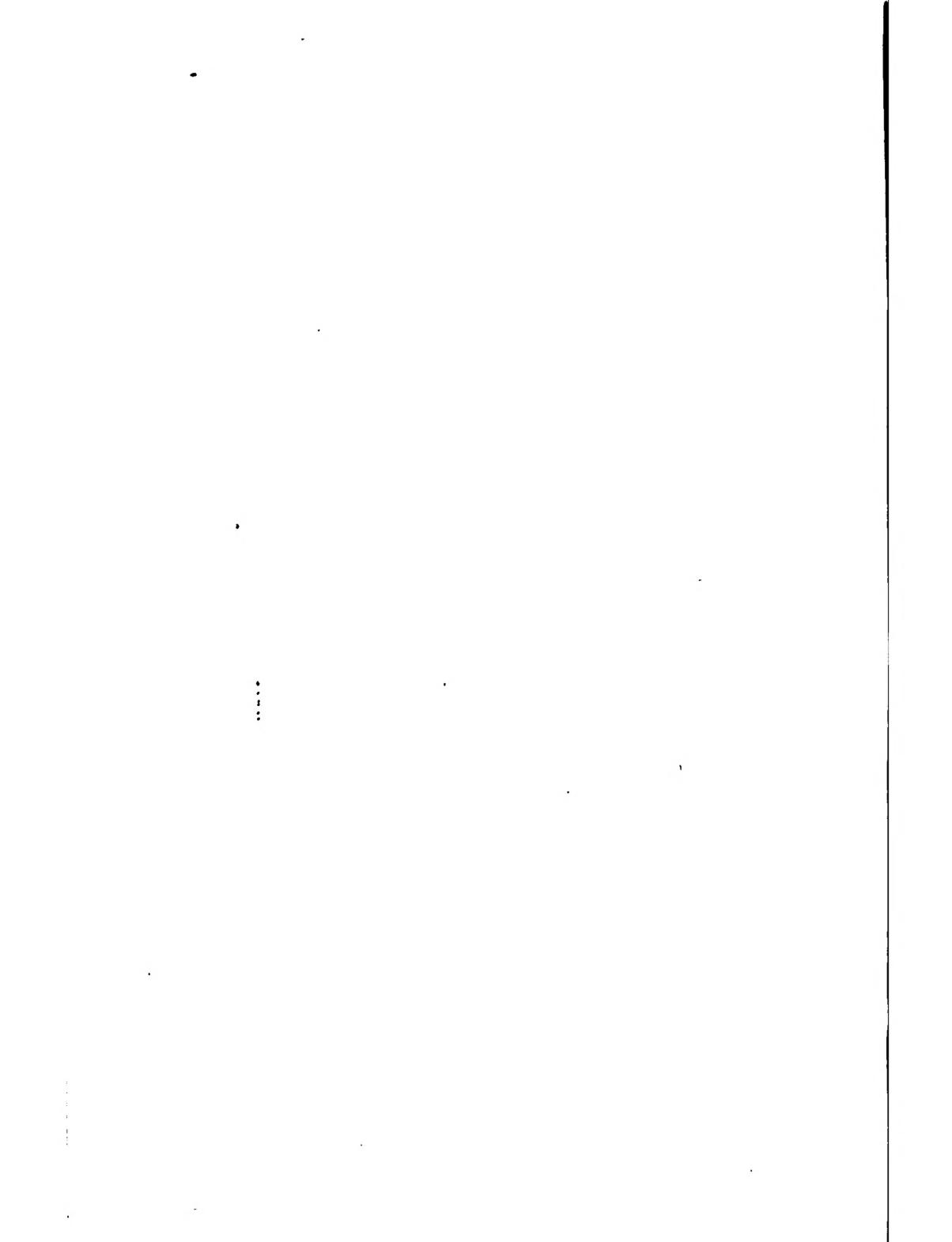
ANN ARBOR NO. 13

Chas. M. Hagadorn, Dec. 16, 1888
Elias J. Johnson, April 6, 1889

FENTON NO. 14

Chas. W. Coe, July 16, 1888
W. H. Van Steenburg,
Sept. 10, 1888







IMMORTALITY

The Beloved Dead
Within our Grand Jurisdiction

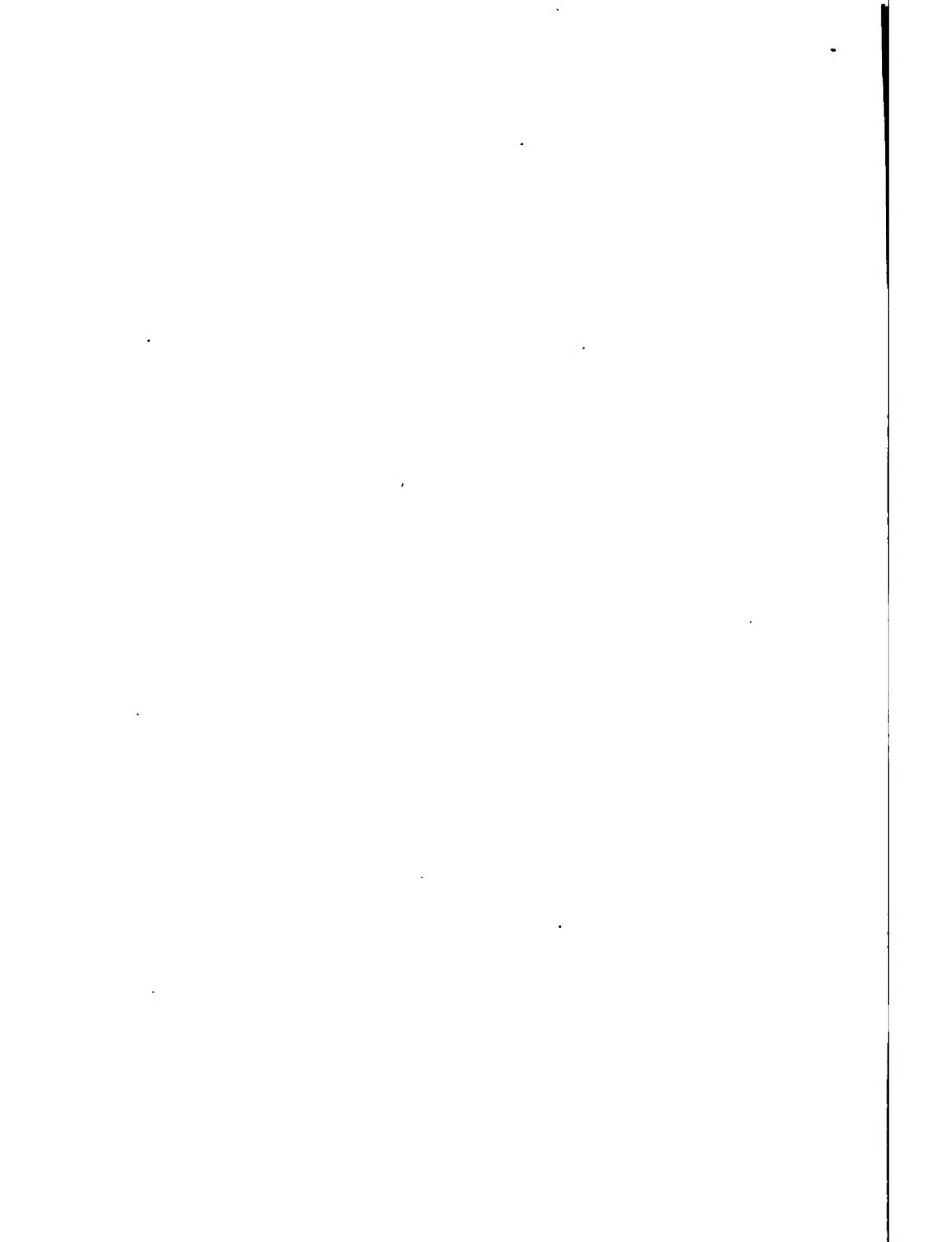
GENESEE VALLEY NO. 15
Wm. McKeever, March 20, 1888

ST. BERNARD NO. 16
S. C. Munson, April 8, 1888
Charles A. Lee, April 25, 1888
L. W. Simpson, May —, 1888
J. S. Martin, Feb. 12, 1889

MARSHALL NO. 17
Charles Difffenbaugh,
June 5, 1888
Joseph Wm. Clark,
Feb. 6, 1889



K RY





IMMORTALITY

The Beloved Dead
Within our Grand Jurisdiction

CORUNNA NO. 21

Nathaniel G. Phillips, June 6, 1888
Charles T. Armstrong, March 21, '89

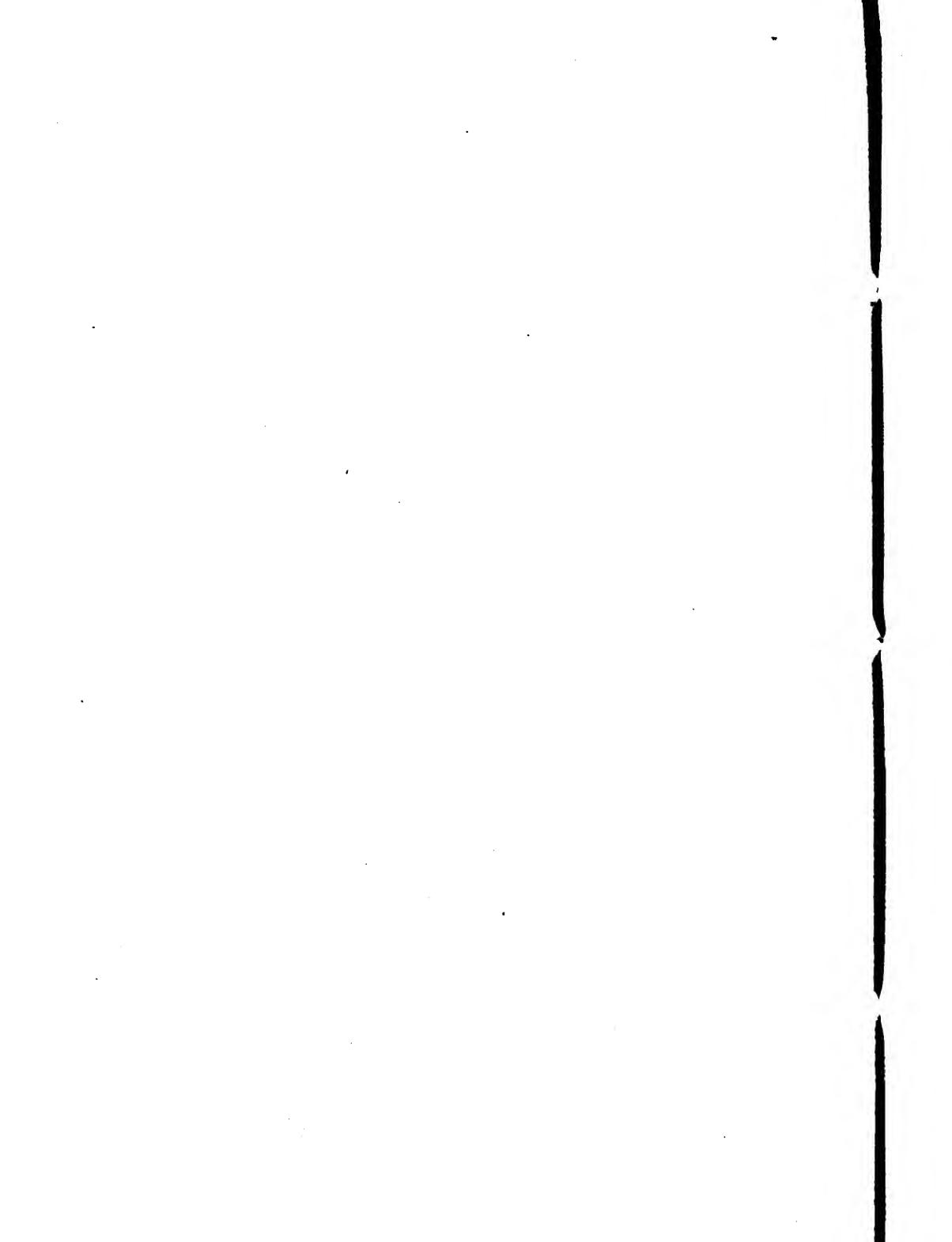
MUSKEGON NO. 22

Hiram Jones, May 22, 1888
Henry Jacobs, June 30, 1888
Malcolm Hendrie,
Aug. 9, 1888

ST. JOHNS NO. 24

A. Calkins,
March 1, '89







CORUNNA NO. 21

Nathaniel G. Phillips, June 6, 1888
Charles T. Armstrong, March 21, '89

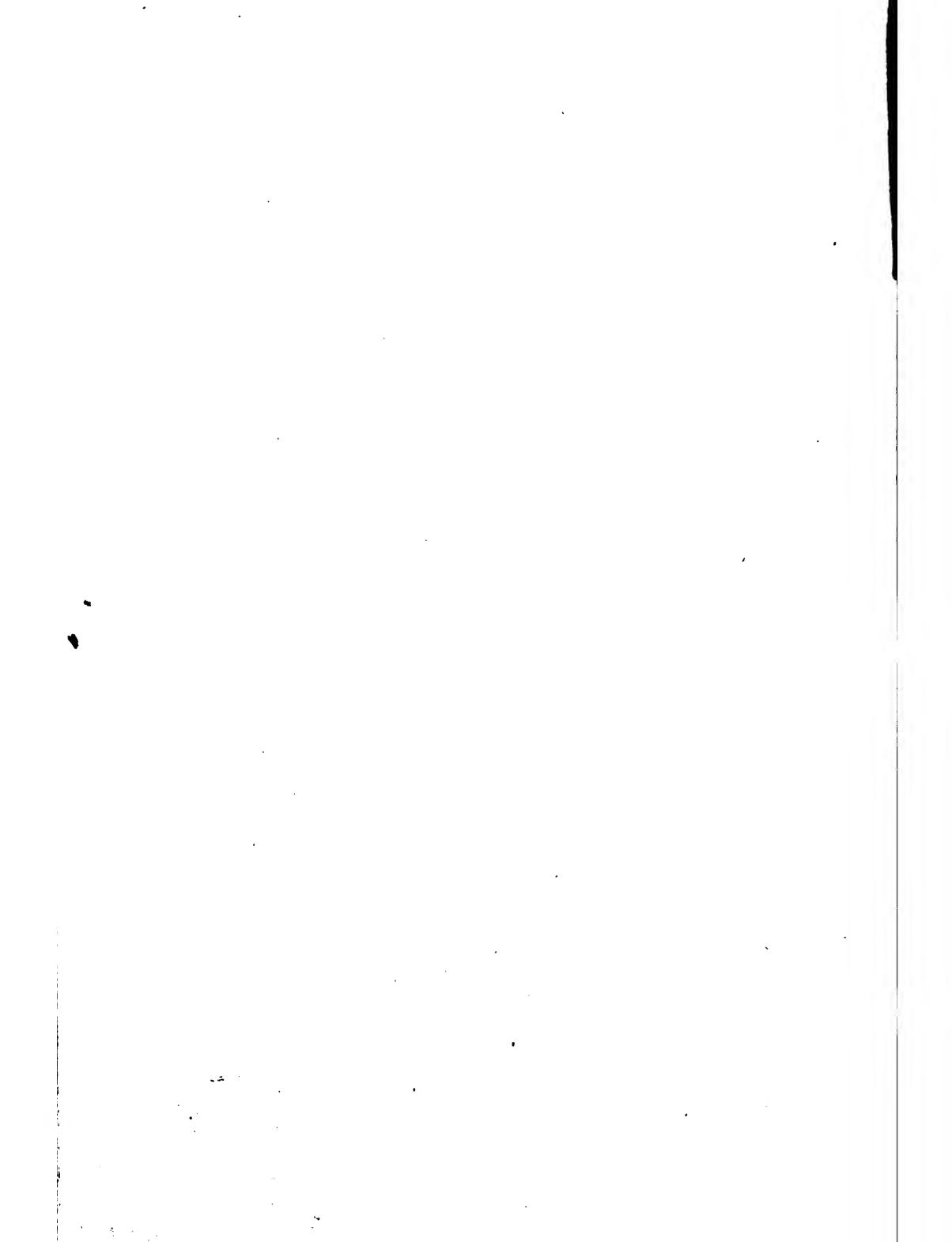
MUSKEGON NO. 22

Hiram Jones, May 22, 1888
Henry Jacobs, June 30, 1888
Malcolm Hendrie,
Aug. 9, 1888

ST. JOHNS NO. 24

A. Calkins,
March 1, '89







IMMORTALITY

The Beloved Dead
Within our Grand Jurisdiction

BAY CITY NO. 26

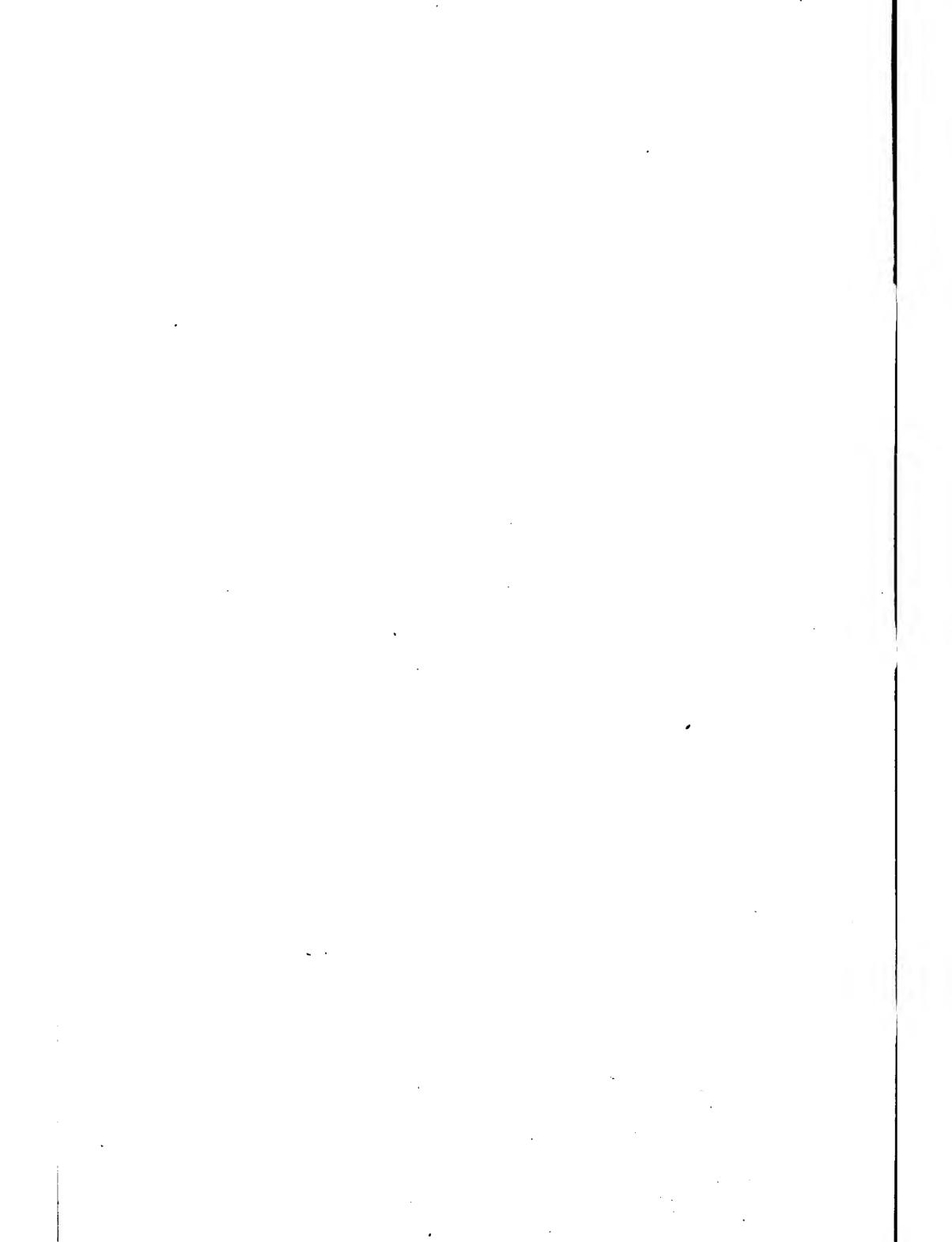
John Rose, Oct. 18, 1888
R. P. Gustaf, Feb. 25, 1889
J. S. Reeves,

LEXINGTON NO. 27

Eben C. Haywood, August 10, 1888

THREE RIVERS NO. 29

Cyrus Hawley, June 1, 1868
G. H. Mason, Feb. 20, 1889





IMMORTALITY

The Beloved Dead
Within our Grand Jurisdiction

MANISTEE NO. 32

Frederick W. Chandler, July 1, 1888
Wm. E. Short, July 24, 1888

BATTLE CREEK NO. 33

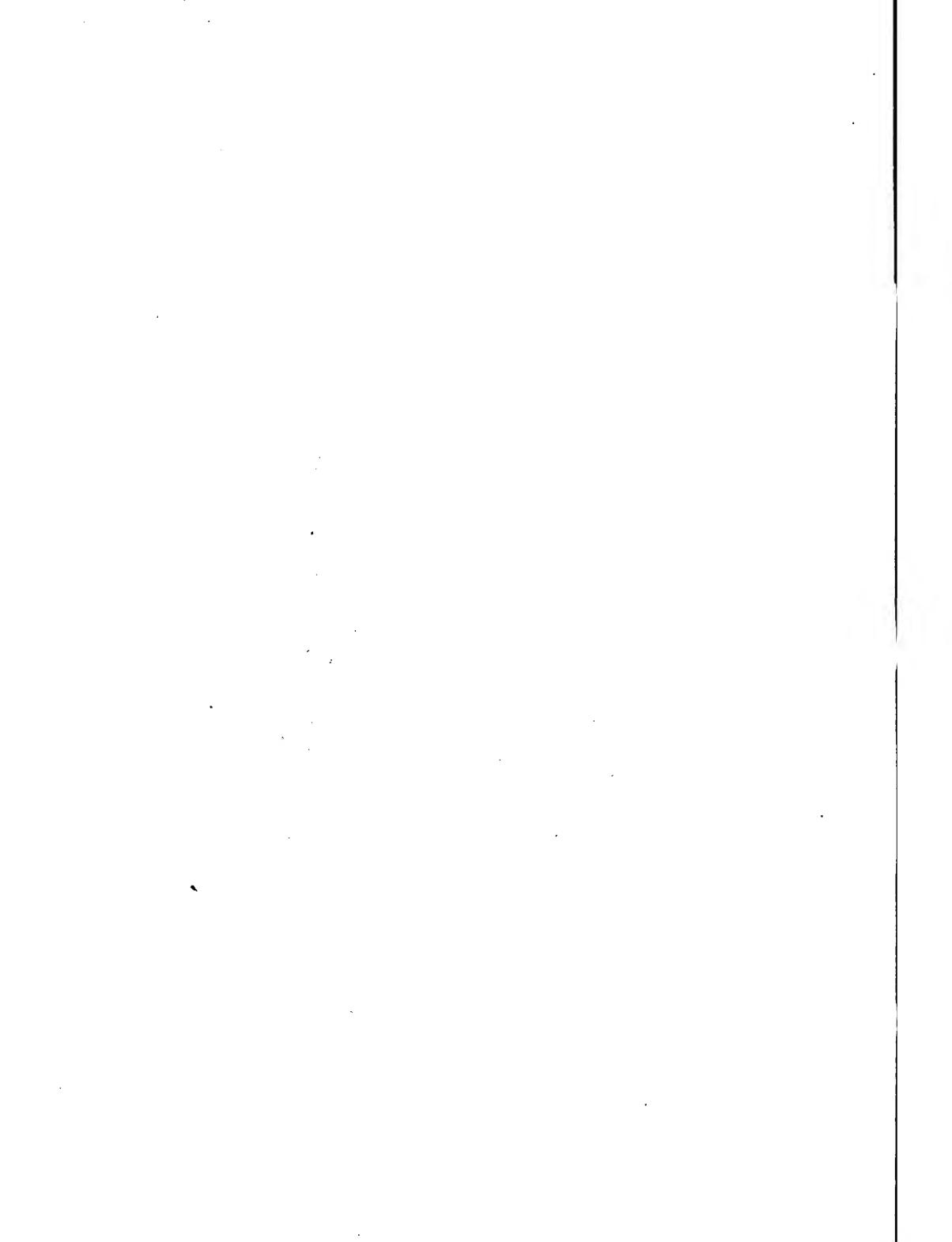
Thomas Hart, April 4, 1888

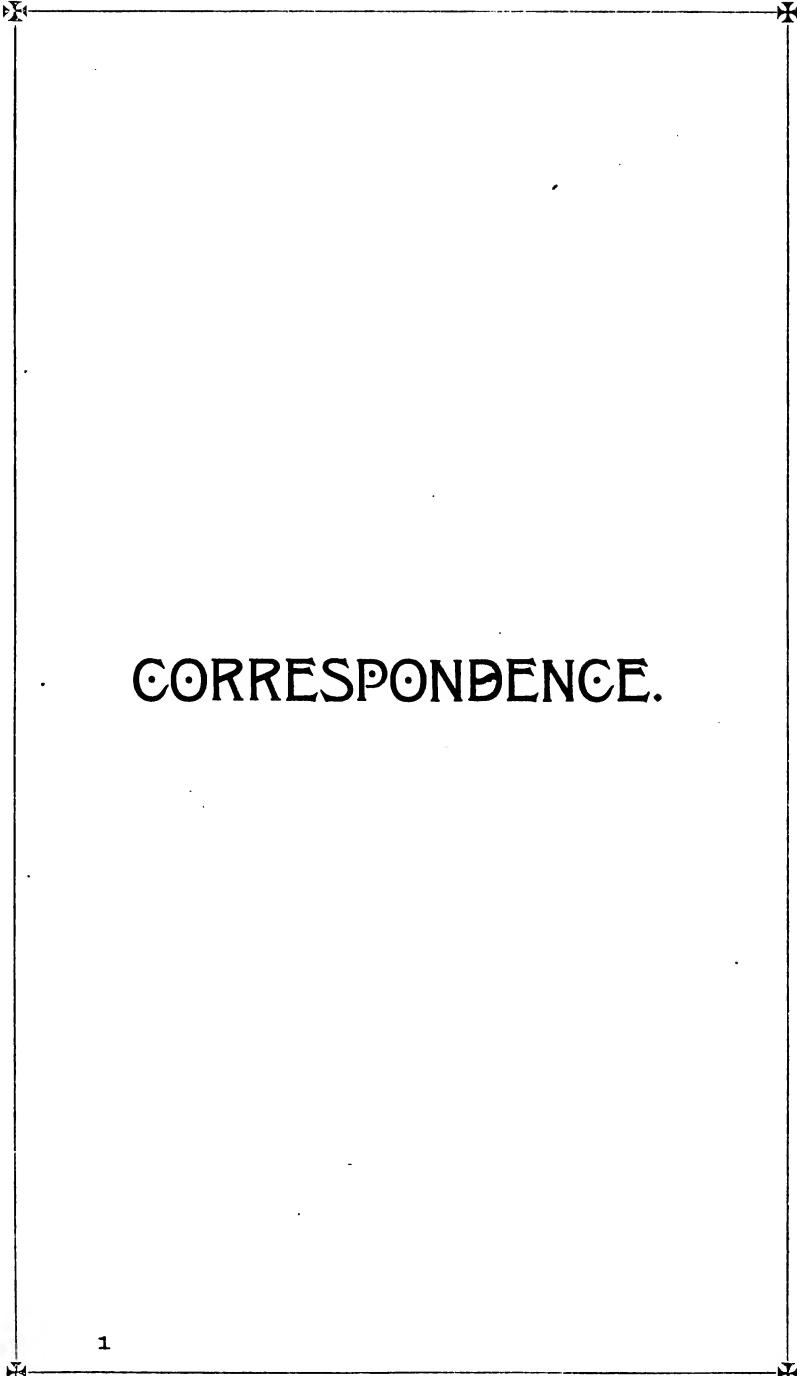
CHARLOTTE NO. 37

John B. Belcher, Mar. 13, '89
Gen. Ward, Mar. 13, '89

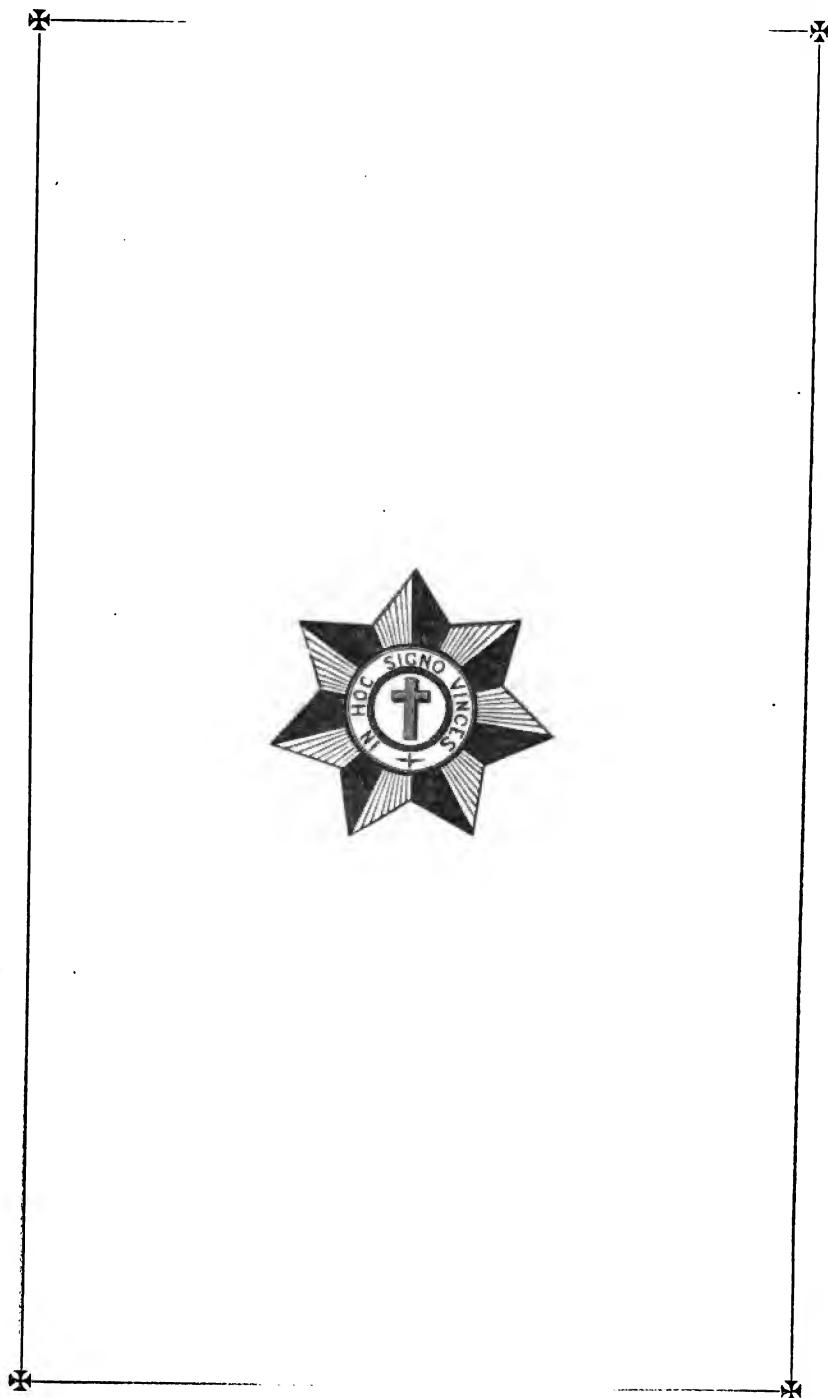


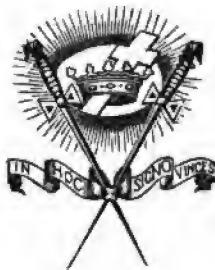
K D





CORRESPONDENCE.





Correspondence.

To the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the State of Michigan:

YOUR committee on correspondence courteously submit their review of the following sister Grand Commanderies:

Alabama	1888	Minnesota	1888
Arkansas.....	1888	Mississippi.....	1889
California	1888	Missouri.....	1888
Colorado.....	1888	Montana	1888
Canada	1888	Nebraska	1888
Connecticut.....	1888	New York.....	1888
Dakota	1888	New Jersey	1888
England and Wales.....	1887	North Carolina.....	1888
Georgia	1888	Ohio.....	1888
Illinois	1888	Oregon	1888
Indiana.....	1888	Pennsylvania	1888
Iowa	1888	Tennessee.....	1888
Kansas	1888	Texas.....	1888
Kentucky.....	1888	Vermont.....	1888
Louisiana.....	1889	Virginia.....	1888
Maine	1888	Washington.....	1888
Maryland.....	1888	West Virginia.....	1888
Massachusetts and Rhode Island	1888	Wisconsin	1888
		Wyoming.....	1888

After a careful reading of the many pages of the proceedings, we submit our extracts and comments, such as we

make. Our report has taken much time, but if the result arrived at pleases "those we love"—the corps reportorial—then is our labor not in vain. During the coming year we hope to greet many of our fraters, to renew old and form new friendships, and we hope for a most profitable as well as entertaining session of the Grand Encampment.

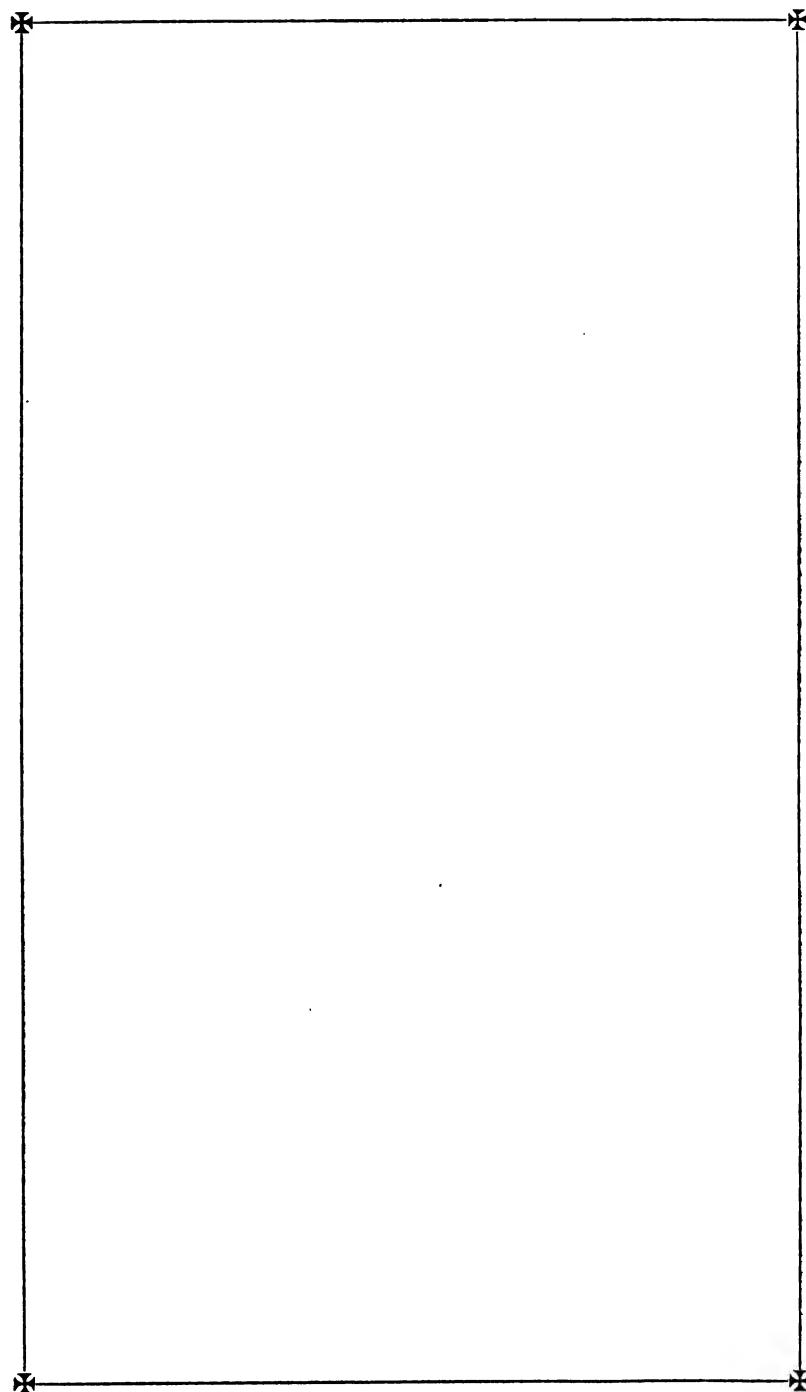
We will miss old familiar faces, veteran correspondents, like Brother and Sir Knight SIMONS, of New York, and others, who will not be with us; but they were trusty Knights, and have gone to receive the honors and awards promised to all who have lived lives governed by the tenets of our order. Peace be to their ashes. May we to their faults be blind, and to their virtues ever alive.

Our best wishes will be with those who attend the coming conclave in Washington—the most important, to our mind, since the memorable meeting in Chicago in 1859. The responsibility is great, the differences almost unreconcilable, and nothing but calm deliberation and great wisdom can safely land us in the waters of peace. Concessions must be made—many pages written and words spoken, must be obliterated from our minds ere peace, in word and deed, can be realized. The speck of rebellion, and the haughty words of defiance, must give place to conservatism, and all must agree, in the future, to live in peace, love and unity, in deed as well as in word. For ourselves, we hope for the best results in this direction, and that it will be obtained we have very little doubt. The uniform question is now settled; let us give our best efforts to the ritual question, and ere we part let that also be finally settled; yea, settled, so that the most uninformed will know it is *settled*.

Above all, let the legislation on matters relative to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite be eliminated positively and absolutely from Templar legislation. Templar masonry cannot afford to travel outside of its sphere, and decide on the legitimacy of any body called masonry with which she

is not in any way connected. We hope and pray that ere the Grand Encampment adjourns, such legislation will be had as will forever bury this suicidal controversy, which is not "worth the powder," even if every utterance against the so-called illegitimate bodies was true. We have no quarrel with those who are advocating either side of the question, but do enter our knightly protest against the warfare kept up between Knights as noble as any. We must say, "hands off"—the continual quarreling forebodes no good to Templar masonry, and engenders feelings that never ought to enter the templar heart. We know whereof we speak. But, hold! enough on this line of thought (although we could easily fill a book.) We are reminded we have other duties to perform, and proceed with the work by introducing the first jurisdiction in line, namely: Alabama.





ALABAMA.

TWENTY-EIGHTH annual conclave was held in the city of Birmingham, commencing May 16, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir JOHN D. WILKINS, Grand Commander.

Sir ADAM R. BAKER, Grand Recorder.

Five subordinate commanderies represented. Two Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

In opening his address, the Grand Commander says, referring to the absence of Sir Knight DANIEL SAYRE:

We miss from his accustomed seat, the form of our beloved and venerable Grand Recorder, Eminent Sir Knight DANIEL SAYRE, who for so many years has filled his station to the satisfaction of his fraters and the honor of this body. May the example of honesty, industry and a life that he has left behind him, sink deep in our minds, and enable us to imitate his virtues.

THE VACANT CHAIR.

He also refers to the vacant chair of the Grand Warder, as follows:

The chair of our Grand Warder, Eminent Sir Knight JACOB BROWN ROTH, is also empty. We shall see his cheerful face no more, and his vigilant challenge is hushed; but the charity of his kind and noble heart, and the consistent Christian life that he led, together with the esteem in which he was held by his fellow men, has left us a record filled with pleasant memories.

(We are in receipt of general order No. 4, issued by the Grand Commander, under date April 1, 1889, announcing the death of Past Deputy Grand Commander, Sir JOHN H.

HIGLEY, and Past Grand Warder, Sir ADAM RIEGART BAKER.)

Truly death has fulfilled its mission in this jurisdiction within the past year.

Grand Recorder SAYRE will be greatly missed by those who knew him best. His death is indeed a calamity to the order, and although he had attained the ripe age of eighty years, yet the model excellence of his magnificent career as Grand Recorder, had endeared him to young and old. As the writer on correspondence, his place will not soon be filled, and his words of wisdom will be missed, year by year, by many who had loved to take counsel with him. Templar masonry can ill afford to have such noble workers removed from their midst.

THE CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE.

The Grand Commander, in his address, says:

The death of our Grand Recorder leaves us without a committee on correspondence. I doubt not that we have the necessary talent in our midst to supply this deficiency, but it has always appeared to me a useless expense to spend so much money to print this report, which very few people read, so I did not make an appointment, and leave the matter with you to be disposed of as you see fit.

But we are glad to see that the committee, to whom that part of his address was referred, did not agree with him, for they say:

Your committee cannot agree with the Right Eminent Grand Commander in considering the expense of the report on correspondence a useless one; and we respectfully recommend that a new committee be appointed, and that the reports be continued as heretofore.

We find further on that Sir GEORGE F. MOORE faithfully performed his duty as chairman of that committee. He submits a comprehensive review of twenty-three Grand Commanderies, and in his opening says:

Sir DANIEL SAYRE, our Grand Recorder, who has for many years acted as a committee on correspondence, was prevented by sickness from preparing a report for the annual conclave of the Grand Commandery.

and before the meeting of that body in May last, he had gone from us to "obtain the rewards that await the valiant templar, in that asylum not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." We shall not attempt to say more than that we loved him well, and trust that many may emulate his example as a just and upright mason. In his report on correspondence published with the proceedings for 1887, he reviewed the proceedings of the following Grand Commanderies for the year 1887, namely: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Oregon. Hence no notice will be found in this report of the proceedings of the Grand Commanderies of those States. Their proceedings for the year 1888, will be reviewed in our report on correspondence, which will be presented to the next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery.

MICHIGAN.

The review of Michigan is for 1887, and of the report on correspondence, he says:

The report on correspondence is by Sir WILLIAM P. INNES. Reviews the proceedings of thirty-six Grand Commanderies in good style and with judgment. Alabama receives a short notice, for which we thank him. There are eight elegant memorial pages in the book, and also the following extremely valuable documents, namely: The constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States, the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment and a supplement thereto, the statutes of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, the services for Ascension Day, the Knights Templar burial service, the edicts and statutes of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, and forms for use in the business of the order. The book, indeed, is a *vade mecum* for the Michigan Knights Templar, and is valuable to knights everywhere.

CONCLUSION.

He concludes his review as follows:

We have thus gone over, briefly, the proceedings of the Grand Commanderies of many States. We fear that we have left unsaid much that we ought to have said, and mayhap have spoken that which we ought to have omitted. But we crave the indulgence of the noble fraternity of reporters, and hope, in the language of Jacob Faithful, to "have better luck next time."

We have found so much to commend and so little to censure, that we have refrained altogether from harsh criticism.

The song of the angels, "Peace on earth, Good will to men," expresses to us the highest aspiration of the templar, and the influence

of the order, necessary to aid accomplishment of that glorious work is steadily increasing, and were the force of its example turned into practical channels, it would give an impetus to the cause of all that is right, true and pure, which can scarcely be overestimated. With knightly greeting for all true fraters, we close this, our first report.

We are glad to know that Sir MOORE is continued at the head of the committee, and that we shall hear from him again in the near future.

ADDRESS.

A beautiful and polished address was delivered before the Grand Commandery by Sir JOSEPH L. TUCKER, D. D. We only wish we had space to give the address, entire, but as we are denied that privilege we will be contented by giving his concluding remarks:

Look around upon this assembly of armed men, see you not everywhere the sign of the cross? What does it mean? Ah, it means that these men have struggled through all the wonderings and questionings of masonry and have found their full answer in the cross of Christ. It means that these men are not ashamed to confess themselves followers of the Nazarene—that they are proud and glad to show to the world that they have found the Messiah, God's answer to all questions, and that his name is Jesus Christ. Proud are they of Him, and they pray with humble hearts and wet eyes and bated breath that when the great day shall come He may not be ashamed of them! Some of them have not yet done their whole duty of obedience to their Master, but they will, for the Knight Templar who dies without tasting the body and blood of his Lord has never been a mason in truth, and wears the trappings of disciplined obedience as false tokens over a disobedient heart.

Masonry is a larger thing than most of us have made of it, nobler. Often we are conscious of a great machine that we understand technically, but that has far greater meanings and uses than we yet have learned. Some of those meanings and uses I have tried to bring out to-night, and there are many more, but all meanings and all uses have their answer full and glorious in our Messiah, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, yet our gentle and suffering Lamb of God slain to take away the sins of the world. We worship and adore Him, and sing the song that is worthy of the Lamb and of the Angels.

Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth,
Peace, Good will toward men.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir HENRY C. DAVIDSON, Montgomery, elected Grand Commander.

Sir EDMUND R. HASTINGS, Montgomery, elected Grand Recorder.

ARKANSAS.

SIXTEENTH annual conclave was held in the city of Little Rock, commencing April 24, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir PHILLIP D. McCULLOCH, Grand Commander.

Sir JAMES A. HENRY, Grand Recorder.

Seven subordinate commanderies represented. One Past Grand Commander present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander, in welcoming the Grand Commandery to this, the sixteenth annual conclave, says:

The events of another year have been added to the annals of templar history in the State of Arkansas. Its joys and sorrows, its struggles and achievements, its triumphs and defeats will henceforth have an existence only in the records of the past. During this short period of time, some hearts have known anguish which memory will not let die, while others have experienced pleasures which it will long be gratifying to recall. Some have found the realization of long-indulged hopes, while others have experienced sad and cruel disappointments. While the days have followed days, and months succeed months, millions have gone hence "to take their places in the silent halls of death," and other millions have come to perform their parts in life's great drama.

Living and dying have gone steadily on together; but, regardless of life or death, another templar year opens upon us, and we must enter upon its duties with bold fronts and cheerful hearts.

No human speculation can foretell what awaits us, nor what scenes shall appear as the curtain of time shall be more and more uplifted. The clouds that hover over us to-day, may all melt away and be dispelled by the sunshine of the morrow. We cannot tell; but we are sure

that men will come and go; that many will mourn and a few rejoice; that some will succeed and others fail; and that amid hope, anxiety and fear, each will pursue his favorite phantom.

Sixteen years ago there assembled in the city of Fort Smith a true and noble band of Sir Knights to organize a Grand Commandery for the State of Arkansas. They did so, and as the outgrowth of their labors, we have to-day nine regularly constituted commanderies working under charters, and two under dispensation. From a small beginning we have increased until now we number about three hundred and seventy-six swords.

Of that noble band, how many are with us to-day?

In looking over this large and intelligent body of templars, I see but few faces that took part in that noble work, and the number is growing less and less each succeeding year. The others have all passed over to the other side, and are now residents of the city of the dead.

In the short space of one year this Grand Commandery has been called upon to mourn the loss of two Past Grand Commanders, Sir ANDREW J. THOMPSON, who died at Pine Bluff, July 12, 1887, and Sir RAPHAEL M. JOHNSON, who died at Fort Smith, December 27, 1887.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander, to questions asked, and approved by the committee on jurisprudence:

Question. A petition is received for a dispensation for a new commandery at Forrest City, which is signed by four resident Sir Knights in good standing, and five members of Hugh de Payens commandery, No. 1, located at Little Rock. In what attitude does this leave the five Sir Knights with regard to Hugh de Payens commandery?

Answer. Their membership in Hugh de Payens commandery ceases for the time being, and remains in abeyance until the new commandery is established.

Question. When the new commandery is established, what steps, if any, must be taken by the Sir Knights of Hugh de Payens to be out of the new commandery and back into the old?

Answer. Any signer of the petition for a dispensation, by the consent of the Grand Commander (or Grand Master) granting the same, and of the new commandery, may dissolve his connection with it; and thereupon, his membership revives in his old commandery.

The petitioners for a dispensation become charter members, unless they have severed their connection with the commandery under dispensation, or their names are omitted from the charter by action of the Grand Commandery.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

He makes the following recommendations to his Grand Commandery:

Sir Knights, our order being formed upon the principles of the Christian religion, with our Savior as the central figure, I deem it proper that we should set apart some day for special services commemorative of that idea. I would therefore recommend that Ascension Day be set apart as a stated conclave of the subordinate commanderies of this grand jurisdiction, to be observed with suitable services, such services to be held in the asylums or in public at some suitable place of worship. This will supercede the necessity for special dispensations for that purpose.

I would also recommend that an additional standing committee be added to the committees of the Grand Commandery, to be designated as the committee on correspondence, with the Grand Recorder as chairman of the same.

To meet the recommendation of the Grand Commander, section 8, chapter 1, of the constitution of the Grand Commandery was amended so as to make a standing committee on correspondence; and we are rejoiced to know that our M. E. Sir Knight JAMES A. HENRY is chairman of that committee. We shall look forward with pleasure to the correspondence report in the proceedings of our sister, Arkansas, for 1889.

CONDOLENCE.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Grand Commander McCULLOCH, in the deep affliction through which he passed in the death of his precious daughter. Words are vain in most instances, and certainly we would not intrude on the private sanctity of his grief to say more.

ONE DISPENSATION.

A dispensation was issued to form and open a new commandery at Forrest City.

THANKS TO GRAND RECORDER.

He returns thanks to his Grand Recorder for valuable aid rendered him during the year.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was offered by Sir WILLIAM K. RAMSAY:

Resolved, That the decision of the R. E. Grand Commander, that no permanent member of the Grand Commandery has the right to a vote in the Grand Commandery by proxy, be referred to the committee on jurisprudence, and that they be requested to present for the consideration of this Grand Commandery a properly prepared edict, in order that this may be entered of record as the judgment of this Grand Commandery.

Same was referred to the committee on jurisprudence, who reported thereon as follows, and which report was adopted:

WHEREAS, At every conclave of this Grand Commandery, a claim is made that a past officer, who is a member of the same, has the right to be present by proxy; and,

WHEREAS, The constitution of this grand body provides that every member of this Grand Commandery present shall be entitled to one vote; therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Grand Commandery that the right of any past officer to be present and vote, is a personal one, and that in order to avail himself of that right he must be present in person, and that no proxies from any past officers shall be recognized or entertained.

Sensible committee; sensible report.

ASCENSION DAY.

The special committee, to whom was referred the matter of the observance of Ascension Day, made the following report, which was adopted:

That each commandery of Knights Templar in this jurisdiction should and ought to observe in a proper manner such occurrence of Ascension Day, either by appropriate services in the asylum of such commandery, or in public, as such commandery may elect, and whenever a public observance of the day is made, it shall be considered that

the commandery so observing it has a dispensation to appear in full uniform thereat, and a general dispensation therefor is hereby granted; and such commanderies as may desire it may have the privilege likewise to observe Easter Day.

SHOULD BE AFFILIATED.

The following resolution, offered by Sir FAY HEMSTEAD, was adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Grand Commandery, that every member of a commandery of this jurisdiction should, and ought, as a matter of justice to the order of freemasonry at large, to be an affiliated member of a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, and of a chapter of Royal Arch Masons, either in this or of some other jurisdiction, and that any members of commanderies of this jurisdiction, who are not members of a lodge or chapter, ought to affiliate with some lodge or chapter, or apply therefor within twelve months from this date.

Resolved, That the Eminent Commander of each commandery in this jurisdiction, be required to have this resolution read in his commandery, at the first conclave after receiving the printed proceedings containing it.

IN MEMORIAM.

The committee on obituaries, referring to the death of Past Grand Commander RAPHAEL M. JOHNSON, and ANDREW J. THOMPSON, concluded their report as follows:

We can not too reverently cherish a memory of these two departed fraters. The recollection of them will long be as a sweet incense to us; the thoughts to us, the thoughts of them will often come back to us so long as there shall be a mind "of memory murmuring the past." Let us draw from the lesson of their lives an additional incentive to virtue by imitating that which in them was good, and making it an example to guide us by. We recommend that a memorial page, suitably inscribed by the Grand Commander, be set apart in our printed proceedings to the memory of each of these fraters, and that a copy of the proceedings be sent to the family of each.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No report on correspondence. But look out for "HENRY'S best" next year.

GENERAL ORDER.

We are in receipt of the following general order, No. 2,

issued by Grand Commander GEORGE L. KIMBALL. It speaks eloquently of the virtues of our esteemed frater, Deputy Grand Commander Sir JOHN MIDDLETON CLAYTON, who was grossly assassinated by some fiend or fiends in human shape. At the same time the order shows to the world that the Sir Knight was dearly beloved, and is sincerely mourned by those who knew him best. For the good name of the State of Arkansas, and in justice to the masonic world, we hope the vile and impious wretch, or wretches, may be discovered, sooner or later, and meet their just deserts:

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF ARKANSAS,
OFFICE OF THE GRAND COMMANDER,
DARDANELLE, ARK., February 6, 1889.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2.

To all Sir Knights throughout the Jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery:

In the discharge of the mournful duty of officially announcing the death of our well beloved frater, V. E. Sir JOHN MIDDLETON CLAYTON, Deputy Grand Commander, it is not improper to pay fraternal tribute of respect to the memory of him whose life and career has so suddenly met with such untimely end.

The Hon. JOHN M. CLAYTON was born at Bethel, Pennsylvania, on October 15, 1840, and departed this life January 29, 1889, at Plummerville, in Conway county, Arkansas, and was buried at Pine Bluff, his home, February 1—the Grand Commandery officiating.

Death is at all times and under every circumstance a ghastly and grievous presence; but when he smites the young, we are consoled with the thought that the victim escapes the sorrows and trials so incident to human life. When the aged fall, we know that nature's last sad debt is paid, and the weary spirit is at eternal rest. But when the solemn summons comes, comes as a voice in the night, to one like our deceased brother, a man rich in the promises of well-earned honors, ripe with the grace and years of mature and vigorous manhood, in the very zenith of an eminent and enviable public career, in the pursuit of a laudable ambition, and in a season of profound peace: when at such a time and to such a man, the last dread summons comes swift as the lightning's gleam, quick as the comet's flash, and borne by the hand *murder*, with no warning and no cause of malice, well may the human heart stand still for horror, and the blood of the slain cry aloud for justice.

Perhaps the death of no man in Arkansas ever invoked more wide-

spread indignation or more profound sorrow than the death of our lamented brother.

The manner of his murder is too well known to the public to render any comment proper, further than to say (the least that can be said) that in the future yet to come, the cheek of every honest friend to the good name of the good State of Arkansas will never fail to mantle with the blush of shame at the mention of the memory of the deed. As to the causes which inspired this fearful tragedy, for the present purpose it is as idle to conjecture as it is vain to regret.

Neither doth it avail the dead that nodding hearse plumes shed their sable shadows over the solemn pageantry of woe, nor that the tears of anguish rain on the fresh turned sod, when the loved and lost are borne to the silent tomb; for no human grief, however strong, nor human love, however deep and true, can reanimate the still and pulseless heart, or wake to life "the dull, cold ear of death."

But when all is finished, when the book is closed and the curtain drops on a career like this, for the sake of the living it is eminently fit that we pause, that we call a halt in the busy hum and rush of life, that we renew the inquiry of inspiration, "Oh God! what is man, that thou art mindful of him?" And not less meet and proper that we drop a tear on the grave of our deceased brother, and pay due tribute to the many manly virtues and noble attributes that characterized his life and adorned his individuality with the love and respect of all who knew him.

He fell in the prime of his manhood, with the laurels of many honors yet fresh on his brow; fell a sacrifice to unknown and unreasonable malice, a victim to human depravity, and an illustration of the uncertainty of all human expectation. Among the brethren of our order none stood fairer. They but waited opportunity to confer upon him their highest honor. With his personal friends he was loved, and by his family adored. Urbane and gentle in his manners, quiet and courteous in all his social intercourse, he was still a courageous and intrepid man, fearless in the discharge of duty, and administered every trust reposed in his keeping with the delicate honesty of absolute integrity. His personal character was beyond the reach of criticism; peer of the peerless, knightly as the knightliest, noble as the noblest; a personal character without spot, blame or blemish.

But idle are the words of woe, and vain the voice of praise. Our brother needs no eulogy. He has gone from among us 'tis true. He sleeps, and sleeps well, no doubt. His form will moulder in the dust of ages; but longer than sculptured marble or storied verses can stand the test of time will his immortal character and deathless name be cherished.

embalmed and crystalized in the love and memory of members of our noble order yet unborn.

It is ordered that this tribute to the memory of our departed frater be read at the head of the lines of each commandery in this jurisdiction at the earliest opportunity, and that the jewels and banners of the several commanderies, and the sword of each Sir Knight, be draped in mourning for the period of sixty days from the date of such reading.

Attest:

GEORGE L. KIMBALL,

J. A. HENRY,

Grand Commander.

[SEAL.]

Grand Recorder.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir GEORGE LEONARD KIMBALL, Dardanelle, Grand Commander.

Sir JAMES AUSTIN HENRY, Little Rock, Grand Recorder.

CALIFORNIA.

THE THIRTIETH annual conclave was held in the city of San Francisco, commencing April 19, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir REUBEN HEDLEY LLOYD, Grand Commander.

Sir THOMAS H. CASWELL, Grand Recorder.

Twenty-six subordinate commanderies represented.
Eleven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

In opening his address, the Grand Commander says:

It cannot successfully be disputed, that no order has a right to exist unless it adds to the well-being of the community where located. No man has a right to say his ancestor was so and so, or did such and such a thing for which all men were grateful, and therefore he should be permitted to live on that reputation without doing anything himself for the good of mankind. Such an one is a useless thing upon the earth, and only cumbers the ground which might be better occupied. I am glad to be able to say our order in this State has established its right to exist, not by pointing to what those who went before us did, but by what we have done ourselves.

When, in 1883, we brought from all quarters of the Union over six

thousand intelligent and observing men, drawn from the various walks of life, and showed them over our State; exhibited its numberless beauties and advantages, its snow-plumed mountains and sunlit valleys; convincing them it was a land flowing with milk and honey; a land teeming with fruits and flowers; a land where every climate a man could wish for was obtainable; a land

"Where the sun loves to pause with so fond a delay
That night only draws a thin veil o'er the day;
Where only to feel that we breathe, that we live,
Is worth all the joys which life elsewhere can give,"

and sent them back to their homes by the rising sun, to tell the millions there what they had seen where the orb' of day goes down to the sea, we sowed the seed which is now promising a fruitful harvest. The truthful and seemingly wonderful stories which our visitors told their friends and associates on the other side of the mountains, soon had the effect of turning the footsteps of thousands to our coast. The ripple of the first wave of immigration broke on us last season, and this year promises to be a mighty flood. On all sides it is conceded that the templar triennial of 1883 was the prime cause of this movement.

FAILED TO PERFECT THEMSELVES IN THE WORK.

Speaking of visitations to the several subordinate commanderies, he says:

Much to my regret they show, in many instances, that the officers have failed to perfect themselves in the work of the order sufficiently to confer the degrees, or even to properly open the commandery. No templar should aspire to the honors or rewards which belong to any office in the commandery, unless he is able and willing to qualify himself to discharge its duties. Unless he can afford the time to learn the ritual and the routine work of the body, he ought fully to understand and appreciate that he cannot confer the orders in that solemn and impressive manner required by our ritual, nor maintain the dignity of the commandery or the respect of its members, and, therefore, should not attempt, nor be permitted, to assist in governing it.

What response could those officers who are guilty of such neglect make to a charge that they had violated their obligations? When installed they promised to support and observe the rules and orders of the Grand Encampment, and of this Grand Commandery; both bodies have ordered the degrees to be conferred by the ritual promulgated by the Grand Encampment, and this body has ordered the opening and closing ceremonies to be conducted according to the form adopted by it.

Both of these regulations have been, in effect, in several instances, violated.

It was technically my duty to suspend the delinquent Commanders. As I did not believe they realized the gravity of their shortcomings, I thought I would not adopt so public and severe a course, but would report the matter to this body, and let it, after full consideration, apply the proper remedy.

OLD FOGIES.

He pays his respects to the "old fogies" who objected to a banquet, at which ladies were invited to be present, and says:

Last February California commandery gave an entertainment in this hall to the families and lady friends of its members—the first gathering of that kind in its history. Some of the old members objected—not to the banquet, for that is a common and attractive thing within these walls—not to the gathering of the templars, for that is customary—but to the invitation to the ladies—there was where they wished to draw the line, thinking it was an improper innovation, a sort of desecration of the temple.

I must confess I can perceive no justification for such an opinion. They say the old time templar vowed poverty, chastity and obedience. That is true, but the poverty clause was soon abrogated; in time the next one followed, and templars married; otherwise what would become of the large majority of the members of to-day? A few others and myself would be the only remnant of the order.

Times are not as they were; a vast change has taken place in the world since A. D. 1118. Then religion was often taught and chiefly maintained by the sword; now reason alone proselytes, and truth maintains. Then women were regarded as a necessary evil—something akin to man, but in intelligence far his inferior; now they are esteemed the first and best gift of God to man—his better half—in intelligence his equal, in many things his superior. We are taught that women are stronger than wine or kings, and excelled alone by truth. We can only propagate and maintain religion by persuasion, by sympathy, by reason. In all these qualities women equal and often surpass men. Why should we not have her who was last at the cross and first at the grave, to aid us in the good work? Why should we not open our doors and let her see that all the foolish notions about templars only meeting to ride goats and do other ridiculous and absurd things, are false creations of those who wish to bring the order into ridicule to subserve their ulterior purposes?

I think the Grand Encampment of the United States made a most sensible change when it permitted the installation of officers to be public. There, those who attend gather, from the various charges, a clear insight into the purposes and ends of the order; there any unprejudiced, fair-minded person can learn that this order only exists for good and lawful ends, and that nothing but benefit can ensue from following its precepts.

Entertaining the families and lady friends of the members is coming into general practice in the eastern commanderies, and gradually spreading in this State. The social influence of woman in our age is all powerful; without her countenance, aid and assistance the churches of to-day would soon go to decay. I must say, therefore, I am in favor of social templar entertainments.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made during the year, and approved by the Grand Commandery:

I.

Marysville commandery requested an opinion:

1. As to whether knights, who were not members of any chapter, and had not applied within six months for affiliation, were in good standing in the commandery, and whether or not they could be permitted to participate in its meetings?
2. Whether if they applied to any chapter within six months for affiliation, paid the equivalent of six months dues and the fee for affiliation, and were rejected, would that keep them in good standing?

At the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch masons of this State, held in April, 1887, the following regulation was adopted:

"It shall be the duty of every Royal Arch mason to be a member of some chapter, and every non-affiliated Royal Arch mason who, having resided six months within this State, shall neglect to make application for membership to some chapter therein, shall be deemed to occupy the same position as those suspended for non-payment of dues; and shall not be entitled to, nor be the recipient of, any of the *rights, privileges or benefits of Capitular Masonry*.

"Non-affiliated Royal Arch masons who occupy the position referred to in the preceding section, and who desire to restore themselves by affiliation, may do so upon payment of a sum equivalent to six months dues of the chapter to which they shall apply, in addition to the affiliation fee, if any, required by its by-laws."

It will be observed that this is substantially a copy of section 1,

article 2, part 5, of the constitution of the Grand Lodge, of Free and Accepted Masons of this State, which reads as follows:

"SECTION 1. It is the duty of every Master Mason to be a member of some lodge, and every non-affiliated mason who, having resided six months within the State, shall refuse or neglect to make application for membership to some lodge therein, shall be deemed unworthy of masonic consideration, and shall not be entitled to, nor be the recipient of, any of the rights, privileges, or charities of the order."

And section 8, article 5, of part 6, of the same constitution, which reads as follows:

"SECTION 8. Non-affiliated masons who, under the provisions of section 1, article 2, part 5, are deemed to occupy the same position as those suspended for non-payment of dues, and who desire to restore themselves by affiliation, may do so upon payment of a sum equivalent to six months' dues of the lodge to which they shall apply, in addition to the affiliation fee, if any, required by its by-laws."

If a templar withdraws from his lodge or chapter, or has been merely dropped from the rolls with no penalty attached thereto, except that in one instance he is permanently, and in the other temporarily, deprived of his membership, he is not thereby shorn of his masonic rights. In each instance, however, the body from which he withdraws or is dropped from the rolls, has clearly and exclusively the right to determine what effect such withdrawal or dropping shall have upon him as to his future intercourse with the members of that order, or participation thereafter in any of its rights, privileges or benefits; and if it declares such withdrawal or dropping from the rolls cuts him off from all masonic rights so far as that body or any of its members are concerned, such decision is conclusive against him whenever he seeks to obtain or exercise any right or privilege elsewhere on the ground that he has a standing in the body from which he has withdrawn, or from whose rolls he has been dropped.

It will be seen that the regulation of the Grand Chapter as to non-affiliated Royal Arch masons, does not stop when it declares they shall occupy the same position as though suspended for non-payment of dues, but it adds the additional penalty that "they shall not be entitled to, nor be the recipient of, any of the rights, privileges, or benefits of *Capitular masonry*." This is a sweeping clause, and entirely deprives the non-affiliated of intercourse with chapter masons, and of all his masonic rights so far as they are concerned. It will not be claimed for a moment that one coming under the ban of this regulation would be permitted to visit a chapter or participate in any of its rites. Unless there was an entire reconstruction of the templar ritual and proceedings, no member

of a chapter in good standing could, without violating his chapter obligations, participate in opening a commandery or conferring the orders with one with whom he could not associate in his chapter.

I therefore decided, as to the first proposition, that a non-affiliated Royal Arch mason, who has not applied within six months for membership, could not be in good standing in his commandery, and must be excluded from participation in its proceedings.

At the same time I advised the Commander that he should presume every templar had complied with his duty and obeyed the chapter regulation, unless the contrary was made known to him either by certificate from the chapter, the knight's own declaration, or in some other reliable manner.

As to the second point, I held that by applying to a chapter and paying a sum equal to six months dues in addition to the affiliation fee, he restored himself to good standing, and if rejected, he would still be in good standing for six months thereafter, when he could apply again.

This is the construction given by the Grand Lodge to the provisions of its constitution above quoted, and it has been held that such application may be made to any lodge in the State. If the application is rejected, it has no effect upon his masonic standing. He has done all the law required him to do, and he remains in good standing for the following six months, when he can apply again.

It will thus be seen that no lodge or chapter, by rejecting an application for affiliation, can in any way affect the standing of a templar in his commandery if, at regular intervals, he obeys the law and renews his petition.

The object of these laws and regulations is plain and founded on justice. The purpose is to require every mason who desires to enjoy the privileges and benefits of the order, to contribute his share towards bearing its burthens. One who is unwilling to give his quota towards feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and binding up the wounds of the afflicted, should not seek to enjoy the benefits of the order.

I know there are not a few who think templars are above and beyond the blue lodge and chapter, and should stand aloof from and have nothing in common with either. The chapter is built upon the lodge; the commandery on both. The symbols and principles of the first two, in the slow progress of time, have been so intermingled and woven into the structure of templarism that, from turret to foundation-stone, there is a harmonious transition from one order to the other. What age has so firmly cemented together cannot now be disrupted without destroying the entire structure and building a new edifice on the ruins of the old. As it is, it is a grand temple to God, to liberty and the

mprovement of mankind; upon its walls time's effacing fingers have left no trace. Let modern reformers seek other things to display their talents on, and let our order alone. If we ever yield to their innovations they will soon make us but the shadow of a mighty name.

II.

By a communication from a member of Oakland commandery, I was informed he was suspended for non-payment of dues, and duly notified by the Recorder. Subsequently he paid his delinquencies and received the receipt therefor, and thereafter attended a meeting of the commandery; but the Commander refused to recognize him as a templar or open the commandery until he retired, which he did under protest, and applied to me to protect him in his templar rights. I immediately communicated with the Commander of No. 11 to ascertain the cause of his action. He replied, admitting the facts substantially as stated by the Sir Knight, but justified his course on the ground that the commandery had declared that as they understood the law, when a Knight was suspended for non-payment of dues he could not be restored except by vote of the commandery, and the commandery by vote refused to restore him; for that reason the Commander would not recognize him as a member, or a templar.

The resolution of the commandery being in direct violation of the decision of this body at its last conclave, I called the attention of the commander to that fact, and directed him to receive and recognize the templar as a member of his commandery, and restore him to his privileges as such; which mandate was obeyed.

There has been some misunderstanding of the rule laid down by this grand body as to manner of restoring knights suspended for non-payment of dues. I think the misapprehension arises from not clearly understanding the by-laws framed by this body for and adopted by all the commanderies.

Sections 4 and 5, of article 6, of the form of by-laws for subordinates are compact, and compose the entire legislation on this matter. They read as follows:

"SECTION 4. Any member of this commandery who shall be six months in arrears for dues, shall be immediately notified thereof by the Recorder; and if said dues shall not be fully paid at or before the next stated assembly, or some sufficient reason be presented for such non-payment, he shall be suspended from all the rights and courtesies of the order.

"SECTION 5. Any member of this commandery, suspended for non-payment of dues, shall be at once restored upon payment of all arrearages to the date of such restoration."

Each jurisdiction in the United States has, no doubt, its own regulations on the subject, and the rulings of the supreme bodies are based on the local law. Our decision must be in harmony with our own laws.

It will be conceded on all sides that our Grand Commandery had the authority to make whatever reasonable regulations it saw fit to govern and define the internal rights, privileges and liabilities of members of subordinate bodies. In its wisdom it declared that a failure to pay six months' dues should be an offense against the laws of the commandery. If it had stopped there and left the character and amount of the punishment to be fixed by the commandery, that body would have had control over the subject matter. But it went further. It defined the mode and manner of punishment, and limited the amount. It in effect said: When any templar fails, without good excuse, to pay his dues for six months, you must suspend him from his membership until he does pay them; you shall say to him, having failed to pay your pro rata to sustain this body and keep it alive, you have no right to enjoy its privileges; until you do pay, you shall be deprived of its benefits; on handing your back dues to the Recorder, and thus doing your duty, you shall be restored to good standing.

By this law, is it the act of the commandery which is to restore him? Not at all; it is his own act—the simple act of paying his dues. On that payment being made, the law, in mandatory language, says he *shall* be restored, not that he *may* be restored, or that the commandery shall have the option of restoring him; but he shall be restored is the language. There is no discretion given. Only one result follows the non-payment of dues. The commandery cannot suspend the offender for thirty or sixty days, or any other limited time, or inflict any other punishment than the prescribed one; it cannot add to or take one jot or tittle from the law.

Suppose the Grand Commandery had provided that the delinquent should be suspended for three months and stopped there, would any one claim any act whatever would be required to restore him to full membership at the end of the three months?

Or, suppose the provision had been that he should be suspended until he paid a fine of five hundred dollars—would it be contended for a moment that the suspension would not end immediately on the payment of the fine?

This law provides for a suspension, limits its duration, and precisely defines when it shall terminate.

It is argued that there should be a vote taken. When a right to vote is given there is always a right of selection, and discretion and opportunity to exercise judgment. Here there is nothing of the kind.

If the commandery voted not to restore him, it would violate the law and be subject to discipline. What would there be to vote on? In effect, nothing. A vote could not be taken until the money was paid, and the law says when the money is paid the suspension is at an end. There would, therefore, be no matter before the commandery to vote on.

The rule of the Grand Encampment does not apply. That is for cases where the suspension is still in force, and where it is indefinite. If section 5 of the by-laws was repealed, then when a templar was suspended for non-payment of dues, the suspension would be unlimited, and he could only be restored by a vote of the commandery.

III.

Marysville commandery asked:

Is it proper for a Knight Templar to loan or use his uniform, or any part thereof, for a parade other than a Knight Templar parade?

I answered: By the law of the order, templars are inhibited from appearing in templar uniform except to perform some templar or masonic duty, or further a templar or masonic purpose; even then it is generally necessary to first obtain permission from the Grand Commander.

It would be highly improper, and a violation of the letter, spirit and purpose of the law, were a templar to loan or use his uniform, or any portion having templar or masonic insignia thereon, for any parade or occasion not authorized by our regulations, or the order of the Grand Commander.

IV.

A ballot was about to be taken in the San Jose commandery on a petition for orders. A templar, acting as Guard, requested the Commander to excuse him from voting, as he did not care to go in and cast his ballot; the Commander granted his request. He was not in the hall when the ballot was had, but on guard at the outer door. No one objected to the action of the Commander; the candidate was elected. Several days after, a member meeting the Commander on the street, notified him that he thought the election was irregular, because the Commander had no right to excuse a knight from voting, and the ballot ought to be re-taken. I was asked to decide if the ballot was legal.

The code of statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, section 5, provides: "Every member present when a ballot is taken is required to vote unless excused by the commandery before the ballot is commenced." And by the law of this body, (section 5 of the statutes,) "all questions in a commandery shall be determined by a majority of the votes."

When a templar asked to be excused, that was a matter which,

strictly speaking, the law required to be determined by a majority vote of the commandery. If, however, when he made the request, the Eminent Commander simply said, you are excused—no one objecting—the Eminent Commander would be considered as merely voicing the wish of the commandery; but if a vote was requested, it would have been the duty of the commander to have it taken; otherwise the election would have been irregular. In this case there was no objection. I therefore held the election regular.

V.

The late Generalissimo of San Luis Obispo commandery, No. 27, just prior to his death, expressed a wish to be buried by his commandery. It took charge of his remains. Paso Robles lodge, No. 286, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he was a member, demanded the right to perform the funeral ceremony, otherwise it would not attend. A large number of masons, personal friends of the deceased, desired to take part if the lodge turned out. The Commander, being uncertain as to the proper course to pursue, finally yielded the control to the lodge, and acted as escort. I was asked, did he act properly, and what was the custom in such cases. I replied: It is the custom to have the lodge take charge, and the commandery to act as escort. By a general regulation of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of this State, adopted A. D. 1877, a lodge can only appear at a funeral when the ceremonies are under its control. All members of the higher orders are Master Masons. There is nothing in the regulations of those orders preventing them from acting as escort at a funeral conducted by a lodge. I think, in every instance, unless the deceased has left positive directions to be buried by the commandery and with the templar service, the general custom should be followed. Then all who desire may show their esteem and respect to the departed one, and without any violation of the rules of their order, follow the remains to their last resting place. All will then act—as masons ever should act—in harmony.

It would be a very unseemly thing to create an ill-feeling at a funeral, or to so order it as to exclude the attendance of any masonic body. In my judgment, the Commander did the gracious and proper thing. The lodge, however, was not entitled to the control, as a right, but only as a masonic courtesy.

VI.

A Companion was elected to receive the orders in Cœur de Lion commandery, and duly notified to present himself at a certain time to have them conferred. For some reason, not known to the commandery, he failed to respond to the notice for four years; then he appeared and

declared his readiness to receive them. The commandery asked: "Can the orders be conferred, or must he file a new petition?"

I directed the commandery to require a new petition.

By section 3, article 5 of the by-laws of the commandery, when one who has been elected to receive the orders shall neglect to present himself for that purpose within three months thereafter, his election shall be void unless satisfactory reasons are offered for such neglect. In this case his life and conduct up to the time of his election had, no doubt, been scrutinized by the commandery, and found satisfactory, but what it had been for four years thereafter the commandery had had no opportunity to investigate; it might possibly be in that time he had disqualified himself.

I cannot conceive of any excuse which would justify a delay of such a long lapse of years. To permit him to enter now on the old election would be a very dangerous precedent to establish. If four years delay could be excused, then no limit could be reached which an excuse could not cover. I think the candidate must present himself within a reasonable time after the lapse of the three months, to be excused, and it should require a most extraordinary state of circumstances to excuse a delay of one month after the lapse of the statutory time.

VII.

A member of De Molay commandery, of Kentucky, suspended for non-payment of dues, petitioned Coeur de Lion, No. 9, for affiliation, and presented at the same time a letter from De Molay, saying merely that the latter commandery had no objections to his joining any other, and would make no claim on him if he did. Coeur de Lion asked if it could affiliate him.

I answered, no. He was merely under a temporary suspension for non-payment of dues. Not having the by-laws of De Molay, I had to presume they were the same as ours; therefore the applicant was still a member of his old commandery. By paying his delinquencies to the Recorder, he would be fully restored in his standing. The letter promising not to make any claims on him could not, by the most liberal construction, be considered a dimit. It did not sever his connection with his commandery; on the contrary, it in effect said: He is a member not in good standing; if you take him in we will make no reclamations.

The law does not permit (only in certain cases, of which this is not one) a man to be a member of two commanderies at the same time. Before his application could be entertained it would be necessary for him to absolutely sever his connection with the eastern body. The rule

is but an adaptation of the old saying that one should put off the old love before taking on a new one.

ACCORDED ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

Sir GEORGE EVANS CLINGMAN, late a member and Past Commander of Newport commandery, No. 13, State of Kentucky, now a resident of California, was, by vote thereof, accorded all the rights and privileges of a Past Commander of that State.

THE UNIFORM QUESTION.

The "uniform question" seems to have received due attention, and the report of the committee on that subject adopted, with the proviso that California commandery, No. 1, be permitted to wear the black uniform, as heretofore.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a special committee of three Knights Templar, who are members of the Grand Lodge of masons of this State, be appointed by the Grand Commander to appear before that grand body at its next annual communication, and endeavor to secure a change in the regulations thereof, so as to permit the lodges of its obedience to attend funerals, as lodges, when the ceremonies are conducted by a commandery of Knights Templar.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The report on correspondence is, of course, written by Sir THOMAS H. CASWELL. He courteously reviews the proceedings of thirty-two grand commanderies, Michigan for 1887 among the number.

The present report is no exception to those heretofore made by that interesting writer and valiant Sir Knight.

CANADA-ENGLAND DIFFICULTY.

Referring to the action taken by Canada, on the motion of Sir ROBERTSON, towards the Great Priory of England, Sir Knight CASWELL says:

We are pleased to see that the Great Priory of Canada has thus maintained its dignity as a sovereign grand body. The masonic grand bodies of England seem to want the earth and the fullness thereof, and

have no hesitation in violating the jurisdiction of other grand bodies, yet if their own territory is invaded a grand row is at once inaugurated, and the offending body is threatened with dire vengeance. The arrogant terms in which the communication of the Great Priory of England is couched, has been properly rebuked by the mild and dignified refusal of the Great Priory of Canada to accede to its imperious demands. The point is well taken by Sir Knight ROBERTSON that, "the Great Priory of England, being under the control and authority of Convent General, is not a supreme and independent governing body (except in so far as its own subordinates are concerned) and cannot, therefore, properly claim exclusive jurisdiction in other parts of the British Empire."

We fully concur in this view of the question; and while we sympathize with the venerable Supreme Grand Master in his unswerving loyalty to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and condole with the weak-kneed fraters who fear to excite the ire of the older grand body, yet we trust that the strong-hearted and more determined spirits, upon whom the dignity and success of the Great Priory depend, will stand firm, and resist every trespass upon its rights, from whatever quarter it may come.

RITUAL.

Sir CASWELL, under his review of Illinois, presents the report of the committee on ritual in full, and says he gives it for the consideration of the fraters of his jurisdiction. We commented upon this subject last year, and only think it is exceeded by the printing of the ritual by order of the Grand Encampment.

IOWA.

Under Iowa, referring to the ritual adopted and promulgated by the Grand Encampment, he says:

We must confess that, when we received the printed rituals from the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, we experienced a keen sense of disappointment; it was not what we expected from a committee of such signal ability as that which had this important matter in charge. Loyalty to the powers that be is ingrained in our nature, and, obeying this impulse, we reluctantly accepted the *dictum* of the committee and obeyed orders; but we do not hesitate to echo the sentiments of the Iowa committee, by asserting that it is the most "insipid piece of literature" that ever came under our notice, "bearing so important a title." If the order has been burdened with this incubus illegally—and for its credit we trust it has—the next triennial conclave may, perhaps, if it can

find time, rescind the order making this so-called ritual obligatory upon our commanderies.

"OUR HUGH."

Under Michigan, he refers to the reception given by this jurisdiction to Sir HUGH McCURDY, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and says "Our HUGH" responded with his usual eloquence.

MEMORIAL DAY.

He does not seem to agree with Sir LAWRENCE for granting dispensations to parade on Memorial Day, and then refusing several requests to parade on occasions which did not seem to be suitable, and says:

We know of no other occasions that could have been consistently ignored, after Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. Oh for a club—but we forbear. One dispensation was granted for the formation of a new commandery.

From our standpoint, we believe Memorial Day can safely be ranked among the few days that commanderies might be authorized to parade publicly. It has no relation, in our way of thinking, to the Fourth of July, as Memorial Day is dedicated to the memory of the departed—many of whom were Knights Templar—while Fourth of July is noted for anything but its solemnity. Draw a line at Memorial Day, Sir CASWELL.

NONE BUT WORDS OF LOVE.

Speaking of our departed Sir Knight KELLY, Grand Captain General, Sir CASWELL thinks that could he (KELLY) have listened to the discussion over the payment of his funeral expenses, he would have kicked the lid off his coffin.

Not so, Sir CASWELL; there was not a word uttered that Sir KELLY, had he been present in our midst, could have taken exception to. None but words of love were spoken of the departed Sir Knight. We had our reasons for what we said, and even the report of the committee from Ohio, on this subject, will not change our views of the correct-

ness of the course pursued by the Sir Knights on that occasion.

THE CERNEAU CONTROVERSY.

Under Ohio, he says:

The CERNEAU controversy "bobs up serenely" in these proceedings, and forms an important feature in the Grand Commander's address. We have not space to recapitulate all the Grand Commander says on the subject, but it is sufficient to say that wherever, in the jurisdiction, a subordinate commandery or individual knight was found guilty of toying with the unclean thing, the penalty of the law was enforced and the dignity and supremacy of the Grand Commandery maintained. The Grand Commander found it necessary to administer some wholesome discipline in certain cases, which we doubt not will have a good effect in suppressing rebellious tendencies in future. In arresting the charters of certain recalcitrant commanderies and suspending their officers and members, he was fully sustained by the Grand Commandery. It is very evident that the soil of Ohio is not congenial to the CERNEAU plant.

COMPENSATION FOR CORRESPONDENTS.

Under Wisconsin, referring to the appropriation made looking towards compensation of the writer on correspondence of that jurisdiction, who had for years performed that duty for nothing, Sir CASWELL says:

The committee on finance saw the point and appropriated the sum of fifty dollars for the service. Had they gone one hundred better, it would have been little enough for the labor performed. This work is usually performed after the ordinary labors of the day are over, and the necessary time is, in most instances, stolen from the hours usually devoted to refreshment and sleep. This is so in our case at any rate, and we presume we are by no means unique in this matter. Fifty dollars would hardly compensate one for reading the proceedings alone, and, in some instances, no amount of lucre would adequately remunerate the reporter for such an infliction. Add to this the task of dissecting, concentrating and shaping the crude ideas of others, of separating the chaff from the wholesome grain; of the fearful self-restraint necessary to be exercised in order to refrain from using cuss-words in certain instances, and the ordinary mind will have no difficulty in grasping the situation, and understanding the inadequacy of the appropriation in this case. We trust our *gentle Swain* will not allow his mind to be unbalanced by this sudden accession to his annual income, but will *stiffen his*

back against temptation, and accept with resignation the good gifts which fall to the share of the virtuous and deserving.

CONCLUSION.

We give his conclusion in full:

Another year has winged its flight into the dark abyss of the past, and the record of its events, imperfect though it be, is herewith submitted. We have endeavored, in all anxiety, to lay before you such matters of interest as have transpired in the templar world since the date of our last report. Were it not for this labor on our part, the majority of our California fraters would be perfectly ignorant of what is being enacted in templar masonry outside of our own jurisdiction. We have endeavored to lay before you such matters of interest as now occupy the attention of the various Grand Commanderies, briefly and, we trust, succinctly; with a view to particularly attract your attention to each, and direct you to where further light and elucidation may be obtained. Our efforts in this line of labor have been addressed more to the reflecting, sentient templars—those thoroughly imbued with the sentiment and spirit of the order—than the mere superficial ones. To the latter, reports like these are mere collections of dry, dull, uninteresting statistics; to the former, they exhibit the mode and manner in which the great pulse of the order beats throughout the length and breadth, not only of our own broad land, but wheresoever in the wide world an asylum of Knights Templar is to be found. No intelligent templar should be satisfied until he, every year, makes himself thoroughly familiar with all the acts and proceedings of the several Grand Commanderies, thereby gaining a knowledge of the progress of the order and its developments in each jurisdiction.

We congratulate our fraters upon the peace and harmony which almost universally prevail in the ranks of the order wherever established. Now and then a jarring cord thrills upon the ear unpleasantly, but it only serves to call attention to the necessity of removing the cause of the dissonance, and restoring that perfect concord which should ever exist between the members of an order founded upon the peaceful and benignant teachings of our Lord and Savior, JESUS CHRIST.

The unjust maintenance of subordinate preceptories of its obedience by the Great Priory of Scotland within the jurisdiction of the Great Priory of Canada, has not yet been remedied, and it is with deep regret we observe that some of our cotemporaries uphold the recalcitrant bodies in their contumacy. We trust, however, that better counsels will yet prevail, and harmony be restored in that quarter.

In our sister jurisdiction of Ohio, a little unpleasantness has arisen, growing like a noxious weed out of the dung-heap of CERNEAUISM. The Grand Commandery, however, by firm and decided action, has trampled the poisonous fungus under foot, and will, doubtless, soon uproot it forever.

The Grand Encampment, having accorded to each Grand Commandery the privilege of selecting its own uniform, that question is now vexing the souls of the members in several jurisdictions, and we shall now, in all probability, have a conglomeration of—

"Black spirits and white,
Blue spirits and gray,
Mingle, mingle, mingle,
Ye that mingle may."

These are the only disturbing elements that now ruffle the placid surface of the templar sea. They are insignificant in themselves, but, unless judicious measures are taken, they may prove troublesome. Like the pebble dropped in the brook, the ripples may extend in ever widening circles until serious results ensue.

We notice one thing with infinite pleasure. The caustic criticisms and denunciations of the Grand Encampment are not nearly so frequent or so bitter as they were before the last triennial conclave. The disposition manifested at that session to do something to promote the welfare of the order, has had a good effect. We trust the example, thus happily set, will be emulated at future conclaves of the governing body, and thus the "kicks of kickers" be turned in some other direction or entirely subdued.

In closing this report we desire once more to return our sincere thanks to our fellow reporters for the uniform kindness and forbearance they have ever manifested in reviewing our humble productions. Their words of kindness and praise has cheered and sustained us through many weary hours of labor, and while we have, with some, honestly differed in opinion upon certain questions at issue, yet the controversy has never been carried beyond the bounds of knightly courtesy.

And now to all we bid a fraternal good-by with all the word implies, until, if spared for another year, we are called to resume our labors.

We invoke the blessing of Him who giveth every good and perfect gift upon all our beloved fraters wherever dispersed. May the dew of His mercy be shed upon us all. May the light of His divine presence illumine us, and may our earthly pilgrimage prepare us for that more glorious pilgrimage to the grand asylum above, where the Grand Commander of our salvation presides.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir TRISTAM BURGES, San Jose, elected Grand Commander.

Sir THOMAS H. CASWELL, San Francisco, re-elected Grand Recorder.

CANADA.

FI FTH annual conclave of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada was held in the city of Toronto, Province of Ontario, July 17, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir W. J. B. MACLEOD MOORE, Supreme Grand Master.

Sir DANIEL SPRY, Grand Chancellor.

Twenty-five subordinate preceptories represented.

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

We quote fully from the address of Grand Master MOORE, as simple extracts hardly do his subjects justice. In his opening he says:

Entering on this the thirty-fifth year of the revival by me of the templar degrees in Canada, and fifth of the formation of this Sovereign Great Priory, I cannot but allude to the important events which have lately taken place.

The action taken by the Great Priory of England and Wales, declaring all intercourse with this Great Priory at an end, in which even the existence of the Canadian body is ignored, with the resignation of our representative, Frater EMRA HOLMES, near the Great Priory of England in consequence of the invasion by us of their territory in the Colony of Victoria, South Australia, having been already published, it is almost unnecessary to refer to it further than to explain the circumstances which led to the separation. Personally, I never regretted anything more in my masonic experience than the result of this contention between England and Canada.

To me the separation is more painful than I can express, as well as a surprise that it could ever have taken place in my day, and deeply deplore the determination of Great Priory to maintain their position in the Colony of Victoria, when it was shown the non-existence of Templar Preceptories there under England arose from those which had formerly existed being temporarily suspended for not sending returns, but not

erased. This gave rise to the mistake that the Great Priory of England had ceased to exercise jurisdiction in the Colony. On this being made known to me, I pointed out to Great Priory that I was in error, laboring under a misapprehension, in granting a warrant, and was fully impressed with the conviction that on reflection they would see the justice of revoking it, but having myself originated the mistake, although unintentionally, I did not specially recommend its being done, leaving it entirely to the good feeling of the members themselves.

The determination to maintain their position was most unfortunate for the amicable relations between the two grand bodies.

This Great Priory allowed itself to be biased by Australian brethren, who on being refused by the local authorities and the Great Priory of England to establish a Preceptory there, as a last resort brought their grievances before the Great Priory of Canada, where they had personal friends, urging their claims as colonists, on the plea that as there was no immediate governing independent grand body in Victoria, they had a right to it.

When I ascertained it was the intention of Great Priory to abide by their former decision, as also to issue two new warrants, I saw it was hopeless to look for a settlement of the difficulty, as it is usual where there may be some difference of opinion between parties, and both sides are desirous of doing what is right, that no further steps be taken on either side until the difficulty is calmly talked over and adjusted. This, I believe, is the practice in matters of business and also in law, and ought to be more fully observed in masonry. I cannot but regret that Great Priory did not feel this, for it is apparent that if true masonry was understood there could be no "*causis belli*" existing.

Esteeming as I do British connection, the chief glory of my position, I must ever venerate and respect her time-honored and matured institutions, and the English masonic parent body of the world as the purest and most constitutional above all others.

I cannot forget that I am a templar of long standing, and a mason of considerably more than half a century in the jurisdictions of the mother-land, during which long period I have become connected with all the known masonic degrees existing.

At the same time I am fully alive to the fact, that in this most unhappy schism our templar brothers of England appear to have shown from the very commencement but little consideration for the feelings and opinions of the Canadian body, by assuming a dictatorial and authoritative tone in their demands, as if Canada were a foreign and antagonistic body, instead of being one of themselves, that it is scarcely to be wondered at she should hold to the original intention of concurrent juris-

dition in the dependencies of the crown; each nationality, if they wished it, being entitled to establish subordinates, but to prevent confusion and discord, it had not of late been acted upon. There is no law, masonic or otherwise, why England alone should claim sole jurisdiction, each independent governing body being the peer of every other. It would seem, however, that English home masonic authorities have arrogated to themselves "exclusive jurisdiction," and do not recognize the authority of any other governing body in the Empire extending beyond their own territories.

A careful examination of the masonic templar statutes of England in 1864, shows that before this period, the grand conclave of England only claimed "England and Wales," but in that edition is added, "the dependencies," showing by the language that some one had interpolated this. "On what grounds and authority was this done?"

I have long foreseen it is only a question of time, when every colony will become masonically independent. The Great Priory of England will not be able much longer to keep it back.

The colonies are quite able to take care of themselves, and are no longer children to be held in leading strings. The masonic governing bodies of England should learn moderation in their demands, and remember that the colonists are of the same race, blood and temperament, and will not tamely submit to a gratuitous assumption of arbitrary authority over them. The day has gone by when a clique of any masonic grand body can dictate to the whole Empire. Time will correct all this, and reduce matters to their proper level, for I am satisfied the masonic authorities at home must gradually and prudently re-adjust the colonial masonic government to the altered and altering political status and circumstances of the dependencies. The United Kingdom will not be able to resist much longer the inevitable—fates are in this unmistakably manifest—let us, then, have peace with honor and right.

But I fear in this, as in other affairs of life, until we change human nature, we can never hope for a real brotherhood, such as the teachings of masonry inculcate.

NON-INTERCOURSE.

On the edict of non-intercourse with the New Brunswick Scottish Encampments he says:

I have strongly felt the interruption of the friendly intercourse with our Scottish templar brethren of New Brunswick, which at the time appeared necessary to maintain the authority of Great Priory in our own jurisdiction, but have never been satisfied that coercion is the proper way to convince people who differ in opinion with us, and it is not the

way to preserve friendship, or for masons to treat each other. I will therefore ask Great Priory, and strongly recommend "the edict" of non-intercourse be withdrawn, and the Scottish Encampments of New Brunswick be considered on the same terms of fraternal regard as existed before the unfortunate misunderstanding took place.

His recommendation was fully concurred in by the committee on his report, who say that they cordially agree with the wish expressed by the Supreme Grand Master, and recommend that the edict of non-intercourse with the two encampments in the Province of New Brunswick, under the jurisdiction of Scotland, be withdrawn.

STATE OF THE ORDER.

Of the state of the order, and the subordinate bodies, within his jurisdiction, he says:

The meetings appear to afford much less satisfaction than formerly; this may be accounted for from the imperfect and unsatisfactory manner in which the ceremonies are frequently performed. The want of punctuality as to the time of meeting, on the part of the presiding Preceptor and his officers, with the consequent delay in opening, is also a great hindrance to the success of the meetings. Members residing at a distance become careless in attendance, when frequently unable to return to their homes at the time they expected. The Preceptory should be promptly opened—when a constitutional number are present. Another great drawback is not making the ceremonies sufficiently interesting. The mere reading of the ritual detracts greatly from the interest, and gives the impression that the celebrant is not fully acquainted with his subject—few would be satisfied to attend a dramatic performance, where the actors were obliged to *read* their parts. In like manner, a reception at which the ceremony is *wholly read* loses much of its impressiveness to the recipient and interest to the members.

THINKS IT A MISTAKE.

The Grand Master thinks it a mistake to throw the order open to every mason who may apply for admission, and says:

Because a man is a mason, it does not follow that he has any right to become a templar. It is but one of the qualifications; and experience teaches us the fact, when thoroughly behind the scenes, that masonry, like many other professions, is in many respects very hollow, and that its most noisy members do not always live the lives or do the work they are pledged to.

TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

On the temperance question he has this to say:

The masonic body in Canada have of late warmly taken up the temperance question, and entered into a crusade against all keepers of drinking taverns, *et hoc genus omne*; but a reformation of this kind must be carefully and judiciously considered in as kindly a spirit as possible, consistent with the circumstances, and a desire to elevate the masonic society to the place it was always intended to occupy. I need only remark that the proprietors of drinking saloons and gambling houses, etc.—as an avocation—is diametrically opposed to the duties of morality, and their daily calling of a nature antagonistic to the sacred principles we profess to teach. We learn from the laws of our early templar system, that none should be admitted but men of the best character and education, open, generous and liberal in sentiment, and our precepts enjoin us that we should eschew all debasing employment, recreation and company; therefore, such pursuits by the members of the templar body are not in keeping with the professions of a "knight of the temple," and must be looked upon as a dark spot upon our escutcheon. How, then, can they be considered as fit associates to be received into our home circle, referred to in the circular letter?

THEIR RITUAL.

Of the comments made on their ritual, as compared with the American system, he says:

Remarks have been indulged in by correspondents to the local masonic press, that, until our ritual is changed to conform to that of the American templar system, templary will never be a success in Canada. So far as the ritual is concerned this is the veriest nonsense that could be uttered, for it is an acknowledged fact that the one authorized in Canada is in strict harmony with ancient usages, and thoroughly in accordance with the traditions of the order and its solemn religious character, which forbids us to conform to the imaginary religious sentiments of to-day, so much indulged in. Preceptors are enjoined by their vows of office to conform strictly to the formula, and are not permitted to introduce innovations of any kind. We do not profess to follow in our system the actual lines of the original body, further than to carry out their rules and teachings in a spiritual and moral sense.

TEMPLAR DEGREES.

On the introduction of the templar degrees into the

masonic bodies of Great Britain, Ireland and North America, the Grand Master says:

In my last allocution and former remarks, I fully entered into the introduction of templary in its connection with masonry, showing that it was based upon fictitious rites, long discarded as wholly unreliable and devoid of all credence. The actual introduction of masonic templary first appeared in the lodges under the Grand Mastership of the Duke of Athol, in the last century, who was also Grand Master of Scotland. They were known as "Athol" masons, or the "Ancients." This system was carried to North America before the Declaration of Independence of the colonies, and with it the "Royal Arch" and "Templar" degrees, where they had always found favor. In Ireland also the Grand Lodge derived their degrees from the ancients, but the Grand Lodge of England being differently constituted, the Royal Arch was adopted as the complement to the Master Mason—not as a separate degree. The templar system never was much thought of there, nor did it become popular until of late years, which was greatly increased by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales accepting the Grand Mastership, when a more searching investigation was instituted as to the claims of the degrees to be considered masonic, as well as their direct descent from the chivalric orders of the crusades. It was then declared—"That the Modern United Orders of the Temple and Malta do not assert any fictitious claim to a pedigree from the old chivalric fraternities; they only retain in a reformed shape the imitation orders as a Christian society, allied, but in no way a part of, symbolic masonry, following the doctrines of the old orders, but *not* imitating them as a military body."

I have frequently endeavored to explain that in the British dominions we only represent the customs and Christian faith of the old religious and military orders of the middle ages by preserving their traditions and Trinitarian Christian belief in the symbolic teaching of the sacred mysteries.

ON THIS CONTINENT.

We quote fully his remarks regarding the masonic system on this continent:

1. I do not find fault so much with the masonic templar work, as all of us do not see the same objects alike, but with the false basis on which it is founded. The old ritualists looked upon speculative masonry as the foundation of the numerous rites and degrees that bear the name of masonry.

It is amusing to read the effusions of various writers on the subject of templary as a masonic degree, their ideas and what they know of it,

was never in being or heard of until long after the revival of symbolic masonry in its modern garb.

2. The first time we hear of templary in North America as connected with freemasonry, was its introduction from Great Britain or Ireland into the St. Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter, Old Registry of Scotland, in the city of Boston, Massachusetts, A. D. 1769, by British regiments stationed there, and from what has been clearly ascertained the ritual of the ceremony was very short, referring to the well known character of the orders of chivalry without allusion to symbolic masonry, evidently merely intended to preserve the recollection of the intimacy originally supposed to have existed between the old Christian builders and the ancient religious and military order of the temple.

After the Declaration of Independence by the North American provinces, templary was entirely remodelled there to form an integral portion of the "new rite of American freemasonry," discarding all the attributes of its chivalric Christian origin and history, as opposed to the democratic-republican feelings of equality prevalent at that period, and to admit of its becoming more entirely a part of the universal system of freemasonry of the revival, adopting of late years latitudinarian views of Christianity, which allows every one to follow the dictates of their own convictions at variance with the orthodox doctrines of the church at large. This is the origin and the philosophy of its evolution from the faith and precepts of the ancient order.

3. A writer in last year's correspondence, templar reports, United States of America, does not seem to realize my assertion that Encampments of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta having a separate existence, in no way connected with masonry, had existed after the revival, as "he had never heard of them." I would refer him to the proceedings of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Canada, for July, 1858, where in my address will be found allusion to the authority, as also in my allocution of 1882; and I still affirm that such was the case from my own personal knowledge over forty years ago in London, England.

4. My desire is to redeem true Christian templary from the mistaken and low ideal it has for many years fallen into. German investigation and teaching have done more towards a true development of masonry, as we have it, than all other nations, by exposing the falsity, of its ritualistic history.

5. Veritable masonic history is comparatively modern, but what is known of it must have had a source. There are traditions, speculations to fall back upon; and taking the teachings of craft masonry as they are now known, there is everything in favor of the Christian origin of the fraternity, but there is a skeptical feeling which destroys faith, shown in

the views of the age—the greatest, because the most dangerous, is "materialism."

6. No one doubts the antiquity of masonry, but what is wanted is an explanation of the modern revival, and how all these side degrees could have become connected and derived from the speculative system. It is quite certain that in the days of "ANDERSON and DESAGUILERS" there was a great deal of infidelity, and the masons of that day eliminated all that was distinctly Christian, but it appears to me the founders of the system, in their desire to establish a universal brotherhood, did not wish to eradicate altogether the doctrines of Christianity, but to apply them in the shape of an allegory, so as not to interfere with their views of the universality of masonry. But this cannot be applied or have any reference to templary, which has always been dogmatic and Christian Trinitarian.

7. The greater number of the "high grade rites" and "side degrees" should be altogether wiped out of genuine masonry as useless parasites on the craft, and only such degrees retained as are considered advisable to exemplify the legitimate system of the A. and A. Rite, 33°. For the most part, these side degrees are full of discrepancies, if not absolutely profane in their frequent light and familiar use of the Holy Name, and in the stringent and unnecessary vows required to perpetuate them. They should only be preserved as curiosities of the credulity of our masonic brethren of the revival.

These rites are simply separate societies, all of whose members happen to be freemasons. This is more distinctly seen in the so-called masonic military degrees, an attempt to revive the old and obsolete orders of chivalry by tacking them on to the speculative system.

The rituals are virtually the same in all, "ringing the changes one upon the other," but under different constitutions, which has led to so much antagonism in the endeavor to prove the legality of each.

What is the use of all the O. B. and care to preserve secrets, if we do not believe we have something committed to us worth keeping?

8. Fault has been found by the advocates of military pageantry that we do not in our system represent the military element of the ancient chivalric orders, quoting in favor of doing so our name, "religious and military;" also, the seal of "two knights on one horse." Every one who has read the history of the orders represented in the modern degrees, knows that they were "a lay monastic military institution," but this does not apply to our imitation degrees in which the religious portion, "belief in the Holy Catholic faith" only is retained, it being neither advisable or necessary to perpetuate the military character in our peaceful society insisted upon by those who look upon templary as a mere

military masonic dramatic performance, for show and amusement, the whole attraction seeming to consist in public processions, with banners and bands of music, et cætera, harmless in itself, but a parody, a burlesque, on the principles taught in the ancient religious chivalric orders. (*Vide* my allocution delivered at Guelph, Ontario, in July, 1880.)

The assumption of being a military body, applied to the templar degree, is manifestly incorrect, the causes which called forth the enthusiastic military spirit of the age when the order was founded having long since passed away forever. Modern templary is no more a military organization than symbolic masonry is operative.

9. In our templar system we have no "festival" date, as the masonic degrees. I would recommend the historic one, first suggested by Ill. Brother Gen. ALBERT PIKE, Grand Commander Southern Jurisdiction 33°, kept in the "Kadise" degree of that rite, which commemorates the persecution of the ancient templar order—namely: January 13, at which date, A. D. 1127, the regulations and statutes of the templars, drawn up by ST. BERNARD, were adopted by the Council of Prelates at Troyes. The ancient order of Malta also held two festivals, one on June 24, ST. JOHN'S Day, that Saint being the patron of the order, and the other on September 8, ST. MARY's Day, the anniversary of the day on which the Turks raised the siege of La Valletta, Malta, in 1565. These should be inserted in our statutes, and kept with due solemnity.

I may also mention here that in the date of the last political Grand Master's death, "JACQUES DE MOLAI," discrepancies appear to exist in histories of the occurrence, but this is owing to the change in the calendar from the old to the new style.

On the night of October 16, 1307, the Grand Master and his principal knights were arrested in Paris and thrown into prison, where they remained for nearly seven years, then were led out for execution on March 11, 1314, and burned alive before the cathedral of Paris.

The calendar of the old and new style, not having been corrected until long afterwards, the vernal equinox, by which all other dates are now regulated, took place on March 13; consequently "DE MOLAI's" death was two days before the equinox.

The equinox is now fixed on March 21, so that the real anniversary of his martyrdom is March 19, new style, but we continue to hold it on March 11.

10. I do not think we are sufficiently particular in conferring honorary membership in the Great Priory on members of other jurisdictions. Private feelings often influence the choice, without due enquiry and a sufficient knowledge of their antecedents. It is also necessary to ascertain the rank and position they hold in their own body, so as to con-

form to the statutes of this Great Priory, which require all its members to be Preceptors, or the equivalent thereto, as when once elected they are entitled to the rank and privileges of a Preceptor. Therefore, to prevent any misunderstanding or interference with the regulations of other jurisdictions, their own templar body should be informed of the intention to affiliate them.

II. I would remark that I am officially in possession of the present authorized rituals of the American templar system, founded on speculative masonry, totally different in construction and history from ours. The Malta order is the same as the English, or rather a copy, with some little discrepancies of the revised ritual adopted by Canada since 1878.

They also add the degree called Knights of the Red Cross, peculiar to the American masonic system, not practiced outside the jurisdiction of their Grand Encampment, fabricated from the degrees known in Great Britain and Ireland as the Babylonish Pass, Knights of the Sword and East, et cætera. It has no connection whatever with the templar order, and is neither a chivalric, nor, strictly speaking, a masonic degree, the history of masonry being always looked upon as having reference to the building of the Solomonic temple.

The emblem of the red cross introduced in the degree is evidently a mistake, confusing it with the Christian red cross of the Constantine order, and the name red cross knights, a misnomer, the only historic order of that name being the red cross order of Palestine—the templars of the crusades, instituted centuries after the incidents recorded in this so-called red cross degree.

The American ceremony has been occasionally practiced in our Preceptorries, or the essentials communicated, to enable the members to visit the templar commanderies in the United States of America, where it is the pre-requisite to their masonic templar degrees.

A former reference to this degree will be found in my address to the Great Priory of Canada for 1862 and 1870, where it will be seen I had authority to confer it from the Supreme Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment, United States of America, the late Eminent Sir Knight WILLIAM HUBBARD, and I still continue to authorize Presiding Preceptors, by virtue of their office, to communicate the degree.

It never obtained any foothold with us, and was seldom or never conferred as a separate degree, properly belonging to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of 33°, where it is embodied as the 15th, 16th and 17th of that rite.

I do not consider it necessary for Provincial Priors to notice the

degree in their reports on the doings of Preceptories, more than they would the Royal Arch or any other degree of masonry.

12. I have carefully corrected the errors in our present rituals, and so far revised them by explanations, *et cætera*, to admit of the ceremonies being more clearly understood and less difficulty found in conferring them, without altering their general features. They are now ready and in the hands of the Grand Chancellor.

INTERESTING REPORTS.

The Provincial Priors presented long and interesting reports of their several visitations during the year past.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was adopted by this Grand Priory:

Resolved, That in consideration of the long and faithful services of Frater WILLIAM WALLIS GRAY, a charter member of Richard Cœur de Lion Preceptory, No. 4, London, extending over a period of forty-five years, he having been created a Knights Templar in 1843, at Mount Mellick, Queen's county, Ireland, by the M. E. the Duke of Leinster, the honorary rank of Preceptor be conferred upon him, and that the Preceptory of which he is a member is hereby authorized to install him as a Preceptor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir HENRY ROBERTSON submits the report on correspondence, courteously reviewing the proceeding of thirty Grand Commanderies. Michigan for 1887 is among the number. Sir ROBERTSON is an able, pungent and interesting writer, and his report will be read with pleasure by all; it evinces great familiarity with American freemasonry.

IOWA AND THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

Under his review of Iowa, after a full statement of the difficulties existing between that jurisdiction and the Grand Encampment, and giving the order of the Grand Master and the Grand Commander of Iowa, he says:

For this action the Grand Master has declared the Grand Commandery of Iowa, and all Sir Knights in its obedience, to be in a state of disloyalty and rebellion, and has interdicted all templar intercourse with them.

Into the merits of this dispute we do not propose to enter. The

facts are before our fraters, and they can judge therefrom as well as we can. A question, however, comes to our mind as to the powers of the Grand Master. The Grand Encampment declared that the previous Grand Master had no power to recognize the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, and it was argued and decided that the Grand Master had no powers except those conferred upon him by the statutes. The Grand Encampment seems to be unfortunate in its Grand Masters. They will persist in assuming powers and prerogatives to which they are not entitled, and confusion is the result. Mississippi and Tennessee have espoused the cause of Iowa, and others have spoken in condemnation of the ritual, while holding themselves bound to obey the order of the Grand Encampment. If any usurpation of power has taken place, the Grand Encampment, at the next triennial in 1889, will doubtless express its opinion thereon as plainly as it has done in the past.

MICHIGAN.

Under the review of Michigan for 1887, Sir ROBERTSON quotes our action taken in the Monroe commandery matter, and says:

An interesting question arose as to the right of a commandery to change their by-laws, and thereby interfere with what might be called "vested rights." We give the whole case, so that it may be properly understood. We fully agree with the committee. Those who joined the commandery, knowing that there were no annual dues, joined knowing, also, that the by-laws were subject to be altered in that particular as well as in others, and the contract, if any contract there was, must be taken as a whole, and part of that contract was that the terms on which membership could be retained were liable to be altered in the manner provided in the by-laws.

BOTH ARE BEAUTIFUL.

Under Ohio, he quotes the following from Sir CARSON's review of Canada for 1887:

"We are free to admit that we think the English ritual is more beautiful and impressive in many parts than ours; its language and style is much better. Our Canadian fraters have tried to improve upon it, and they have a templar ceremonial of their own. Both are beautiful and most impressive. Neither of them leave any room for a question or a doubt as to the order being Christian, in the name of the Undivided Trinity, and that is our belief. We believe, too, that the true interpretation of our American ritual means the same, though we must confess that we have not in words so unequivocally expressed it.

"At the same time we know that our American templar ritual is very much nearer to the ancient or Dunckerly ritual than either the present English or Canadian templar ritual. Both of them have made very great changes from the old ritual, and, as we think, improved upon it. However, it is hardly just for them to be too severe on us, because, perhaps, we retain more of the 'antique' than they do.

"We also believe that templary has become an '*integral part*' of American masonry. Whether it ought to be so under our new or cosmopolitan masonry, is a question which we will not pretend to answer or discuss.

"We also believe that our present American templar ritual contains more of the primitive, or ante 1717 teachings and principles of masonry than do the present symbolic degree rituals and ceremonials themselves. We merely state this as a historical fact, and we do not wish to be understood as expressing a wish to change our present cosmopolitan system of symbolic masonry, even if we could."

And says:

In his other remarks, Frater CARSON is entirely mistaken in stating that the Great Priory of England had possession of the territory of Australia. All the templar bodies there had ceased to exist before we granted the warrant to the Preceptory at Melbourne, and it was after we had granted that warrant that some parties in England paid up the dues of one of the defunct Preceptories in Australia, and had it reorganized. Frater CARSON should be sure of the facts before he presumes to criticize.

Our action was correct and proper, even according to American precedents, and we have the approval of a good conscience in helping the templars of Australia to obtain local self-government. To attempt to bolster up the aggrandizing and arbitrary policy of the grand bodies of England, ill befits any citizen of the great republic, whose noble sons sacrificed everything—even life itself—to secure that liberty which some of their degenerate descendants are now unwilling should be attained by others.

The state of templarism in Australia was disgraceful to the order, and every one who knows the facts will justify our action by every principle of knightly honor. It was also strictly in accord with masonic law and precedent. The territory was unoccupied. Every templar body in it had ceased to exist. The consideration shown by the Great Priory of England towards its subordinates in that far-off region had been so beneficent that they had all silently mouldered away.

Every effort to establish the order on a firm basis was thwarted by open hostility from abroad, and concealed treachery from purchased

minions at home. Local self-government was the only remedy, and this was masonically obtained. Two other Preceptories received warrants from us, and the Sovereign Great Priory of Victoria has been regularly formed and constituted. We have withdrawn from the territory with every desire for the prosperity of the new body. We rejoice in their success, and we are gratified that our assistance was of some service to our fraters of Australia.

CONCLUSION.

We give the Sir Knight's conclusion in full:

This finishes our report. It has been prepared since the annual assembly of our Great Priory, under considerable pressure. Such as it is, however, we submit it to the favorable consideration of our fraters in the Dominion. We have endeavored to give a concise and readable *resume* of the most important proceedings of the Grand Commanderies which have come to our hands. In order to keep pace with the times, it is, in our opinion, essential to be informed with some degree of accuracy as to what our neighbors are doing. We can note any changes in their laws and methods of procedure, and watch their effects. We can thus correct our own legislation, or avoid mistakes.

As members of one common family, we must necessarily take an interest in the welfare of our foreign members. Their success is a matter for our rejoicing, and in order to do our work well we must be in possession of the requisite knowledge. These reports form a method of inter-communication that cannot be excelled, and they have a tendency to bind us more closely together, and they add zest to that fraternal intercourse that is the real pleasure of our association.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir W. J. B. MACLEOD MOORE, G. C. T., Prescott, Ontario, re-elected Supreme Grand Master.

Sir DANIEL SPRY, G. C. T., Barrie, Ontario, re-elected Grand Chancellor.



COLORADO.

THIRTEENTH annual conclave was held in the city of Denver, commencing September 21, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir AARON GOVE, Grand Commander.

Sir ED. C. PARMELEE, Grand Recorder.

Thirteen subordinate commanderies represented. Six Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

Much of the Grand Commander's address is taken up in giving an account of the several visits made to subordinate commanderies by him during the year, and the kindly greeting he received at the hands of the Sir Knights.

Referring to his visit to Canon City commandery, No. 9, he says: "The afternoon of the visit was passed in exchanging greetings and in visiting the State penitentiary."

"The following afternoon," he says, "we" (presumably the Grand Commander and his staff) "attended Divine service at the penitentiary, and V. E. Sir HARPER M. ORAHOOD delivered a short address to the audience."

There is a great vein of humor throughout this whole matter. Sir ORAHOOD, stand up and explain who your audience was, and to whom did you address most of your remarks? Was it the fellows you took in with you, or the fellows you found in? Funny, isn't it?

THE RITUAL.

On the edict of the Grand Master, relating to the ritual, the Grand Commander says:

On May 28, 1888, an edict of the M. E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States issued, which reached me in due time, certified by the Grand Recorder. The purport of the edict, which you

have all read, was, after reciting the cause, interdicting all templar intercourse between the Grand Commandery of Iowa, and all Sir Knights in its obedience, and the loyal Knights Templar of the United States.

I so understand my duties and obligations as to receive and comply with all orders emanating from that source. Accordingly, the edict of the Grand Master was published to the order in this jurisdiction as authoritative. It was no part of our business to inquire as to the advisability or legality of the Grand Master's action. The recourse of templars, when a real or apparent injustice is done, is to the Grand Encampment, which conveniently sits triennially to adjust matters of variance amongst the subordinate commanderies.

I have received courteous and pleasant letters from the Grand Commander of Iowa, the gist of which is that we withhold our decision until the templars of Iowa can present their position. These letters are on file with our Recorder, and will be read if desired.

I have replied to the R. E. Grand Commander of Iowa, that it is neither within our purpose or province to pronounce judgment on the case; that we do not express opinion; that we obeyed the order of the Grand Master as we deemed our duty, in promulgating his decision, and await the further action and orders of the Grand Encampment.

I trust that the prudence and wisdom of the Grand Encampment, at its next conclave, will be sufficient to allay the unfortunate disturbance which the introduction of a uniform ritual has created. I believe that no serious variance amongst Knights Templar can be of long duration, and confidently look for a satisfactory outcome.

Sir Knight WARREN M. FLETCHER, grand representative of Iowa, residing near this jurisdiction, may desire further to present this matter to this body. He will be most welcome, as representing the interests of our highly esteemed and knightly fraters of Iowa.

ONE DISPENSATION.

A dispensation was granted for the organization of a new commandery at Alamosa.

REPORT ON UNIFORM.

Sir HARPER M. ORAHOOD, chairman of the committee on uniform, submitted his report. They strongly recommend discarding the baldric, and against adopting metal buttons. The report of the committee was adopted, after some discussion, and we shall expect to see the boys in "great shape" at Washington, next fall.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

The Grand Representatives from the Grand Commanderies of Tennessee and Iowa presented extracts from the proceedings of those Grand Commanderies in reference to the Grand Encampment ritual.

COLORADO BATTALION.

From the following resolution, offered by Sir LAWRENCE, and adopted by the Grand Commandery, we see our sister Colorado has jumped into the "briar bush" with both feet. Hope they won't put each others' eyes out:

Resolved, That the Grand Commander be requested to at once take the necessary steps for the organization of a Colorado battalion to attend the triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment at Washington in 1889, and to make the necessary arrangements for transportation and accommodations of the battalion on said pilgrimage. That the Grand Commander be authorized to appoint such committees as he may deem necessary to carry this resolution into effect.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight HARPER M. ORAHOOD presents the report on correspondence. Thirty-three sister grand jurisdictions are reviewed, Michigan for 1888 being one of the number. Of course, it is a good report; ORAHOOD is the writer—that is sufficient.

CANADA.

Under the review of Canada, after quoting from Sir Knight MOORE's address relative to the difficulties between that jurisdiction and England, he congratulates Canada on her declaration of independence, and becoming actually independent of her mother country.

IOWA.

Under Iowa, referring to the Grand Commander's address, he says:

The Grand Commander makes a labored effort to show that the ritual which has been promulgated, was not legally adopted by the Grand Encampment. As is well known, this Grand Commandery refused to

use the ritual, and the Grand Master, after a large amount of correspondence with the Grand Commander, issued his edict.

* * * * *

A very bitter feeling has been engendered, and the whole matter must necessarily come up for action at the triennial next year. We readily see that a great deal may be said on each side. We think it would be better to await the action next year before discussing it.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan receives kindly notice, and we seem to be at peace with our good Sir Knight ORAHOOD, as he says nought against us.

CONCLUSION.

• In his conclusion he says:

In former reports we have made some general remarks on the questions which appeared to be of interest to the order generally. In 1886, our space was devoted to the Grand Encampment. We are glad to know that our views have generally been approved. Tactics and drill have received less attention than usual the past year. The uniform has occupied a prominent place in the proceedings of most of the grand jurisdictions, since the last triennial. As a general rule a comparatively plain uniform has been adopted. Brass buttons have generally been discarded. Nearly all have discarded the baldric for officers entitled to wear shoulder straps, and many, we think properly, have discarded it entirely.

* * * * *

We have noticed a tendency generally to public parades at the opening of the Grand Commanderies. Also to giving banquets, receptions, and other social entertainments. Record of these is usually made, rather incidentally, than as a part of the proceedings proper. We have noticed this tendency in reviewing many of the jurisdictions, and have made a number of quotations showing this part of the proceedings. We may say, too, generally with approval, excepting the public display. This emphasizes what we said on this subject in our report in 1886. We quote one paragraph:

"One of the strongest objections urged against the Grand Encampment is the usual parade and social festivities. Having this in view, we could not help noticing this same feature attending many of the annual conclaves. We have, in reviewing several of the States, called attention to this matter, and have put ourselves on record against such displays; especially when carried to the extent of publicly installing grand officers.

With this tendency so prominently displayed in the Grand Commanderies, can we expect anything else in the Grand Encampment?"

Our work for another year is done. We have read and examined thousands of pages of proceedings and reports, and, as in former years, have found much more trouble in deciding what not to take than what we should put in our report. Though short, our reports contain a great deal of information, and information, too, not easily accessible to templars generally. We wish every member of the order in Colorado would each year read our proceedings, and not omit this report. We believe they would be fully repaid for so doing.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JAMES H. PEABODY, Canon City, elected Grand Commander.

Sir ED. C. PARMELEE, Pueblo, re-elected Grand Recorder.

CONNECTICUT.

FIFTY-FIRST annual conclave was held in the city of Hartford, commencing March 20, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir CHARLES E. BILLINGS, Grand Commander.

Sir JOSEPH K. WHEELER, Grand Recorder.

Eleven subordinate commanderies represented. Eleven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The address of the Grand Commander shows a large amount of visitation and routine work done by him during the year. He reports but one decision required of him. The question was: "Can a Sir Knight of New Haven commandery, No. 2, who is a member of Hiram lodge, No. 1, attend a regular or special conclave of this commandery?" To which the Grand Commander answered, "No;" and the committee, to whom that part of his address was referred, submitted the following report, which was adopted:

Regarding the decision of the R. E. Grand Commander respecting

the standing of the Sir Knights of the late Hiram Lodge, of New Haven, your committee recommend that this decision be confirmed; and further, that all members of this Grand Commandery who are now members, or shall be, of any lodge declared clandestine by the Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut, be stricken from the roll of the Grand Commandery, and so remain until they shall declare their allegiance to the said Grand Lodge.

TACTICS AND DRILL.

The Grand Commander recommends that a special evening be set apart by each commandery for the purpose of teaching the tactics and drill.

CONCLUSION.

He concludes his report as follows:

Thus, Sir Knights, in my humble way, I have rendered to you an account of my official doings since you conferred upon me the honorable and responsible position of Grand Commander. Permit me to return my sincere thanks for the honor bestowed. I also take this opportunity of thanking my associate officers and the members of this grand body, for the many acts of knightly courtesy and kindness received at their hands since they elected me Grand Junior Warden in 1882, and advanced me step by step to the highest honor in their power to bestow. And especially do I thank our Grand Recorder, who has ever been ready and willing to assist me in the discharge of my duty. Trusting that you will extend to my successor in office the same support and magnanimity that you have accorded to me, also having faith that the glorious record of the brilliant achievements of the renowned knights of old, and the bright and ever expanding pathway of the new, since the seed of the order was planted on the broad shores of our beloved land, will stimulate us to put forth our best efforts in carrying out the noble principles for which the order was founded. And may the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe be with and prosper us in all good work, and guide us in our onward march towards that Grand Encampment where we all hope to meet and be forever at rest.

TACTICS.

The following resolution was adopted, and the proper committee appointed:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed, whose duty it shall be to look over the several tactics now in print, and make such suggestions and recommendations at the next annual conclave for

adoption by this Grand Commandery, a tactics which will meet the wants of the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction.

PRESENTATION.

We quote the following from the proceedings:

Eminent Sir GEORGE NICHOLSON, of New York, at the conclusion of the conclave, on behalf of the New York Sir Knights, presented the newly elected Grand Commander, Sir CHARLES B. WARE, with a beautiful Knight Templar jewel, set with a diamond and engraved with masonic emblems. On one side is the cross of the thirty-second degree, resting on which is a double-headed eagle with outstretched wings, in the breast of which a large diamond is set. On the reverse is the Maltese cross of the Templars, on which is raised a cross and crown. The jewel is appropriately engraved with the name of the recipient and the lodge, chapter and commandery to which he belongs—the whole forming an exceedingly rich and handsome emblem.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight JOSEPH K. WHEELER presents the report on correspondence, reviewing, as he does, the proceedings of thirty-one sister grand jurisdictions. Although not a very lengthy report, yet it embraces many subjects of great interest.

ILLINOIS.

Under Illinois, we quote the following:

Sir Knight HUGH McCURDY, Grand Generalissimo and Representative of the Grand Encampment of the United States, was introduced and made welcome, who responded in his usual eloquent manner. And we mean by this, "true eloquence," that is made so by an earnest, honest heart. There is very much that is considered eloquence that is only an overflow of gush, as conventional as the prayer of the Pharisee who never knew his Master, and who never rose above that strata of materialism that hangs heavy and weighs down the soul, impeding its progress on the great sea of life, like a ship encrusted with barnacles. Everything in life seems to be tinctured with a sort of materialism, that is at war with all the higher aspirations of a man's nature, and it is the ever increasing ambition of chivalry to dignify the order of the Temple by a high standard of manhood, which includes that lofty human virtue of patriotism, that reaches out beyond the boundaries of our personalities, and folds in a fraternal embrace the whole kingdom of Christian knighthood.

INDIANA.

He quotes the following from Sir NICHOLAS R. RUCKLE, in his report of Indiana:

In the light of history and tradition the ritualistic separation of lodge from commandery would not so nearly resemble a divorce as the cutting apart of the Siamese twins. The connection between the ancient craft and templarism is one of growth, not of association. The orders have grown directly out of the body of the craft. Every effort to trace the beginning of American templarism leads directly into the door of the lodge; and as to how it came there we know as little about as we do as to how the third degree came into the lodge.

And says:

And yet there are those who profess to believe that the ritual of ancient craft masonry, as practiced at the present time, is the same that was used at the building of King SOLOMON's temple, by SOLOMON as Grand Master, and that the templar ritual was formulated in the year 1118, the date of the order, and used by the Christian knights in the times of the crusades to restore the holy city of Jerusalem from the Saracens. There can be no doubt that the entire system is one of evolution, basing its forms and ceremonies upon historic matters, and, so far as the craft is concerned, borrowing from the religio-philosophic societies of the ancient Greeks and Romans, and perhaps Egyptian mythology, which have been changed to meet the views of a people who believe in a God who is invisible, yet personal, instead of the gods who were visible and material.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan for 1887 has fraternal consideration, and for personal commendation he has our thanks.

CONCLUSION.

We give his conclusion as follows:

Our report is completed, our labor is done for a short season. Our glance through the fields of our sister jurisdictions gives evidence of vitality and healthy growth that ought to be encouraging to all who are devoted to the cause of templarism. Our review includes all, with the exception of two or three jurisdictions, whose proceedings we did not find; which we offer, with all its imperfections and shortcomings, for the charitable criticism of those who read. It is impossible to embrace in a few pages all that might be said when drawing from so many wells

of deep water, so much of the highest and noblest thought that is so frequently expressed in the proceedings reviewed.

To our correspondents everywhere we extend our knightly salutations, and trust we may be able to meet you again another year, and be able to say that the grand order of Knights Templar is still growing, and still exerting its influence in shaping and controlling the deep current of human destiny, which is swiftly flowing past, making men more thoughtful, earnest and true, and binding them more strongly together with her beautiful symbolic cords to the changeless truth, teaching fraternity, charity and benevolence, and projecting their lives out on the basis of a glorious immortality, through His name, **IMMANUEL:**

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir **CHARLES B. WARE**, New London, elected Grand Commander.

Sir **JOSEPH K. WHEELER**, Hartford, re-elected Grand Recorder.

DAKOTA.

FI FTH annual conclave was held in the city of Aberdeen, commencing May 29, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir **MARC A. BREWER**, Grand Commander.

Sir **BRUCE M. ROWLEY**, Grand Recorder.

Eight subordinate commanderies represented. One Past Grand Master present.

The Grand Commandery being in session on Decoration Day, they were invited by the Grand Army of the Republic post, and citizens of Aberdeen, through the mayor, to participate with them in the exercises of the day, but they declined the invitation, as by the terms of their constitution they could not accept.

Some things are better and holier in the breach than in the observance.

TWO NEW ONES.

Dispensations were granted for the organization of two new commanderies.

CHARITY.

The Grand Commander, under the head of "Charity," in his report, says:

I would at this time call the attention of the members of this grand body to the subject of the advisability of beginning a fund in conjunction with the other masonic bodies in the territory to found a masonic home.

I will admit we are rather young to attempt such a thing, but the sooner we start out the sooner we will accomplish it, and what more noble and glorious purpose can we have in view than to establish a home on the top of the mountain—either for aged and infirm members, or for the helpless and defenseless orphans of our order. It would be following out the true principles of him whose soldiers we are.

And I am sure that if properly presented before the other grand bodies they will take hold of it with us, and show to the rest of our sister organizations that, although young, we are imbued with the true spirit of masonic principles and masonic charity.

I mention this to you at this time that you may take such action as you may deem best, and trust that ere long something may be done for sweet charity's sake.

And the special committee to whom that part of his address was referred, reported thereon as follows:

We would further report that we have carefully considered that portion of the address of the Right Eminent Grand Commander advising the beginning of a fund with which to found a masonic home, and, while we heartily concur in the views therein expressed, favoring this praiseworthy object, yet, on account of the youth of this grand body, its present financial status and the burdens borne by our people, we would recommend that it be deferred for the present, with the sincere hope that its accomplishment may be realized in the not far distant future.

RECOGNIZED AS LEGITIMATE.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, This Grand Commandery acknowledges no degree of masonry or orders of Knighthood to be regular except those conferred by and under the authorities in the United States of America and those of corresponding rank in foreign countries, to wit:

The supreme councils of the northern and southern jurisdictions of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rites, presided over by H. L. PALMER, Milwaukee, Wis., and successors; and ALBERT PIKE, Washington, D. C.,

and his successors; the Grand Encampment; the General Royal Arch Chapter of the United States; Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters and the Grand Lodges of the several states; and any knight holding to or receiving, or having received any irregular degrees under the assumed name of masonry or knighthood, shall be required to withdraw therefrom under pain of being expelled from all participation in any of the privileges contained in the provisions of this constitution; and no commandery in this jurisdiction shall be permitted to receive any candidate or visitor into their respective bodies who in any manner or in any wise is concerned in or with such clandestine degrees.

That settles it—carry the news to CARSON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Twenty-six Grand Commanderies are fraternally reviewed by Sir W. D. STITES, Michigan for 1887 among the number. It is a very comprehensive report, and we can give it no fuller endorsement than by quoting the following resolutions:

Your committee to whom was referred the report of Sir Knight W. D. STITES, of committee on correspondence, would respectfully report that we have examined said report with care, and find abundant evidences of a great amount of labor expended in its production. A complete synopsis of the work of Grand Commanderies reviewed, and believe the author entitled to the hearty thanks of this Grand Commandery.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOSEPH A. COLCORD, Huron, elected Grand Commander.

Sir BRUCE M. ROWLEY, Huron, elected Grand Recorder.



ENGLAND AND WALES.

NATIONAL Great Priory of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and of St. JOHN of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, in England and Wales and the dependencies thereof, holden at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon street, London, on Friday, May 11, A. L. 5892, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770, at 4 o'clock.

The Very Eminent Sir Knight Captain N. G. PHILLIPS, Provincial Prior of East Anglia, on the Throne.

Sir W. TINKLER, K. C. T., Vice Chancellor.

The knights having formed the arch of steel, Very Eminent Sir Knight Captain N. G. PHILLIPS, provincial prior of East Anglia, preceded by the national great officers, and officers, and past grand officers, entered in procession, under the direction of Eminent Sir Knight Lieut.-Colonel G. H. J. HALDANE, as sub-marshal.

The very eminent provincial prior having taken his seat upon the throne, opened the national great priory in ample form.

The registrar called the muster roll.

The minutes of the national great priory of December 9, 1887, were read by the vice-chancellor, and declared to be correctly recorded.

Very Eminent Sir Knight Captain C. R. N. BESWICKE-ROYDS, provincial prior of Lancashire, moved that the report of the council be taken as read. The motion was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

The registrar, Sir Knight R. H. THRUPP, stated that since the report of the council was printed, the annual returns and dues from the several preceptories he named had been received, and they would, therefore, now be struck out of the list of preceptories in arrear.

The following is the

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

Your council has to report the resignation, in the month of March last, of the provincial prior of north and east Yorkshire, the right honourable the Earl of Londesborough, after holding the office for a period of twenty-four years.

You have been pleased to appoint, by patent, dated March 27, last, Major JOHN WOODALL WOODALL, as his Lordship's successor.

The Ascalon preceptory, at Poona, and the William Stuart preceptory, at Aldershot, have been authorized to be re-opened after being in abeyance for fourteen and five years respectively.

A petition has recently been received from the Jerusalem preceptory, in the province of Lancashire, applying for the grant of a centenary jewel. The petition alleges that the preceptory was chartered by the Grand Lodge of all England at York on October 10, 1786; that it was constituted in a Grand and Royal Encampment on October 17, as the first and premier Royal Encampment in all Lancashire; and that it was confirmed by the Grand Master, THOMAS DUNCKERLEY, by warrant, dated May 20, 1795. The charter of October 10, 1786, has been lost, and is supposed to have been destroyed, with the old books and papers of the preceptory, in a fire at the masonic hall, Manchester, which occurred some few years ago. The evidence that has been laid before your council of the previous existence of such charter is, however, considered by it to be satisfactory, and your council is of opinion:

1. That, inasmuch as no law relating to centenary jewels at present exists, an addition be made to the statutes of the order to the following effect—that when any preceptory shall have established to the satisfaction of the council that it has had a continued existence for at least one hundred years, it shall be entitled, on application, to receive a warrant recording the fact, (for which a fee of three guineas shall be payable,) with permission to the members to wear a commemorative jewel of a pattern to be approved by the council.

2. That the Jerusalem preceptory, Manchester, having so established its continued existence since October, 1786, a warrant be issued to it, granting permission to the members to wear a centenary jewel.

GIFT TO THE MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The sum of fifty guineas was voted by the Great Priory from the benevolent fund, to the royal masonic institution for girls.

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS AMENDED.

The statutes and regulations were amended to read as follows:

That when any preceptory shall have established to the satisfaction of the council that it has had a continued existence for at least one hundred years, it shall be entitled, on application, to receive a warrant recording the fact (for which a fee of three guineas shall be payable.)

with permission to the members to wear a commemorative jewel of a pattern to be approved by the council.

A knight having asked whether the centenary jewel proposed would be of one pattern for all preceptories, the great sub-prior stated that he thought that there should be one uniform jewel as in the craft, but that the matter had better be left in the hands of the council.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

The great sub-prior said he wished to announce that Great Priory was that day honored by the presence of two distinguished visitors and members of the order of high rank, from the United States of America, namely—General JOHN C. GRAVES and Sir Knight THEODORE H. TILTON. He was certain that Great Priory was very pleased to have those distinguished knights present on that occasion, and to show them the proceedings in a comparatively small way of Great Priory. He begged to offer them the right hand of fellowship.



GEORGIA.

TWENTY-SEVENTH annual conclave was held in the city of Savannah, commencing April 18, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir CHARLES T. WATSON, Grand Commander.

Sir SAMUEL P. HAMILTON, Grand Recorder.

Six subordinate commanderies represented, together with a number of Grand Representatives. Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

R. E. Sir THOMAS BALLANTYNE, representative of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, was formally received with the honors due his position, and cordially welcomed by the Grand Commander.

IN MEMORIAM.

Of the deaths that have occurred within his jurisdiction the past year, the Grand Commander says:

The angel of death has been active in plucking from amongst us fraters whom we loved and honored. The unalterable fact that "the young may die, the old must," has been forcibly brought to our attention.

Three members of this Grand Commandery have exchanged the cross for the crown since we last met.

On my right we sadly miss that prompt, attentive and watchful knight, Eminent Sir JOSEPH E. WELLS, whose station as Grand Treasurer he rarely, if ever, failed to occupy for more than a quarter of a century.

DECISION.

The following question was asked, and answer given by the Grand Commander:

1. Whether when the committee, appointed by the Eminent Commander on a petition for membership, reports unfavorably on the petition it is necessary to ballot on the petition.

2. If, after the committee has made an unfavorable report on the petitioner, his petition for membership can be withdrawn by his vouchers.

In reply I answered:

The code of statutes of the Grand Encampment read as follows:

"SECTION XXX—PETITIONS FOR ORDERS.

* * * * *

"8. *Unfavorable Report, Effect of.*—An unfavorable report does not dispense with the necessity of a ballot, which must be taken in all cases.

* * * * *

"6. *Cannot be Withdrawn.*—When a petition has been presented to a Commandery it cannot be withdrawn unless it shall appear that the Commandery has not jurisdiction over the petitioner."

If you refer to petitions for the orders, which when granted and the orders conferred, *ipso facto*, makes membership in the commandery petitioned, the statutes quoted so clearly answer your queries that any opinion of mine would be superfluous, and if you refer to petitions for membership by affiliation, I can see no reason why the same statutes are not equally applicable.

THE RITUAL.

Of the ritual he has this to say:

At the annual conclave last year the copies of the ritual of the orders of the Red Cross and Knights Templar, as adopted by the Grand Encampment of the United States, were distributed by the Grand Recorder, and in general orders No. 1, issued July 1st, 1887, special attention was called to it.

On August 15 I wrote the Grand Recorder to direct the Eminent Commanders to send to him all the old rituals, and to destroy all, except one to be retained in the archives of the Grand Commandery. I understand that all of the Eminent Commanders have not sent in the old ritual.

The new ritual has been subjected to much adverse criticism, not only in our own jurisdiction but in a number of others; and in Iowa the Grand Commander ordered the copies distributed by their Grand Recorder to the commanderies to be returned to that officer, and in his annual report makes a lengthy and labored argument to show that the ritual was not constitutionally adopted, his action being sustained by his Grand Commandery.

The allegiance we owe to the Grand Encampment, and the vows we have taken to maintain and support its statutes, cannot, in my opinion, justify such direct nullification of its laws, regularly certified to us by its proper officers.

While the work in this jurisdiction is shorn of some of its beauty and impressiveness by the new ritual, the advantage of having a uniform ritual throughout the United States supersedes, to my mind, any pet ideas we may entertain as to the superiority of our old ritual.

The Grand Commander made many official visits during the year, and performed a great amount of detail labor, for which he received the thanks of his grand body.

He returns grateful thanks to the Grand Recorder, whose ability, good judgment and long experience, had very much lightened the labors of his office.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The report on correspondence is written by Grand Recorder SAMUEL P. HAMILTON. Twenty-eight Grand Commanderies are carefully reviewed, and in his opening the writer says:

Herewith the Grand Recorder presents his second compilation of items extracted from the "Proceedings" of other "Grand Jurisdictions." He would take the liberty of drawing particular attention to the histo-

rical address extracted from the proceedings of Canada, which he thought of sufficient importance to reproduce in full; likewise he would mention the report of the magnificent action of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky, the report of which will be found *in extenso*, and lastly, the action of the Grand Commandery of Iowa on the adoption of the new ritual is deserving of the serious consideration of this grand body and is therefore given in full.

As in his first report, he "has not introduced expressions of his individual" templar "opinion," but of course has, of necessity, been compelled to use descriptive adjectives. He makes this statement lest some of his readers might be misled by expressions of some naturally or assumedly obtuse members of the "*band*" who could not or would not see that this is the work of a templar official, for a templar grand body. He hopes that his selections will meet the approval of the templars of this grand jurisdiction.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan for 1887 has its place among the States reviewed. Although no extended remarks are made under this or any other jurisdiction, yet the report has much to commend itself to the reading mason; it is, indeed, as Sir HAMILTON says, "not a report of expressions of individual templar opinion," but a report of the doings proper of the several jurisdictions.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JAMES L. FLEMING, Augusta, elected Grand Commander.

Sir SAMUEL P. HAMILTON, Savannah, re-elected Grand Recorder.



ILLINOIS.

THIRTY-SECOND annual conclave was held in the city of Chicago, commencing October 23, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir EDWARD S. MULLINER, Grand Commander.

Sir GILBERT W. BARNARD, Grand Recorder.

Fifty-six subordinate commanderies represented. Nineteen Past Grand Commanders present.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST.

Upon the opening of the Grand Commandery Sir JOHN C. SMITH addressed the R. E. Grand Commander as follows:

You will pardon me for bringing up any subject matter prior to your delivering your address. But it being upon my mind at this moment I wish, with your permission, to say that one of the most distinguished templars, one high in all grades of masonry, known throughout commercial and railroad circles, I am informed, is now at the Grand Pacific hotel, terribly afflicted, totally blind; I do not know that he is able to leave his room, if so, I feel confident that he will be with us upon this occasion. I refer to R. E. Sir A. V. H. CARPENTER, of Wisconsin. I think it would be eminently proper indeed, for this Grand Commandery to appoint a committee to wait upon the distinguished frater during his remaining in our city, and if he is able to come out, to bring him over to the Grand Commandery to-day or to-morrow. But at least to assure him of the warm-hearted sympathy of the members of this Grand Commandery, with the representative of the fraters of Wisconsin. I move that the committee be appointed.

We are happy to find, further on in the proceedings, that the committee appointed to visit Sir CARPENTER entered the asylum with the distinguished guest in charge, when Sir SMITH, chairman of the committee, introduced him as follows:

R. E. Grand Commander—It affords me much pleasure, sir, to present to you R. E. Sir A. V. H. CARPENTER, of the jurisdiction of Wisconsin, one whose name is a synonym for integrity, whose official character in the masonic world, whose standing in masonry is peerless, I take great pleasure in presenting him, as he comes in response to the very courteous invitation of this Grand Commandery, in behalf of which we have presented your sympathies.

The R. E. Grand Commander welcomed Sir CARPENTER in the following words:

R. E. Sir—It is with unusual feelings of pleasure that we greet you upon your visit to us this morning, and that I extend to you the cordial greeting and welcome of this Grand Commandery. The jurisdiction of Wisconsin is one which our Grand Commandery respects and esteems, and the friendly and courteous interchange of visits, which have been so frequent have tended to emphasize and increase that affection and regard.

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Illinois: I take pleasure in introducing to you, R. E. Sir A. V. H. CARPENTER of the grand jurisdiction of Wisconsin.

To which Sir CARPENTER responded in the following courteous and feeling remarks:

We hail each other when we meet, as Sir Knights of our respective States, but I know from the acquaintance that I have with the Illinois fraters, and what I know of the Wisconsin fraters, that as between themselves they know no State lines. Masonry knows no territorial boundaries the world over. A mason of one country is a masonic citizen of any other country where a mason is to be found. It is more cosmopolitan than any political or religious organization in the world, going back more extensive even than the Christian religion, to which we all bow obedience, going back to the eternal fatherhood, and thence it radiates and spreads out in the world as a great brotherhood.

Right Eminent Sir, and fraters of Illinois, it affords me the most sincere pleasure to be present on this occasion. I appreciate the kindness which you have extended to me; I know that it comes from your hearts. I feel that it is so, and that is a greater compensation than words can express. I have been afflicted, but, thank God, my hope has never forsaken me; light is beginning to dawn, brethren, and I feel confident that I will be able again to be an efficient member in the service, and when the light does dawn on me, and I can again meet you face to face, and recognize you, you may be sure that your fraternal greeting will be cor-

dially reciprocated, and then should you ever come to Wisconsin, or any other place, where I happen to be in Illinois, or any other jurisdiction, you will find one who is glad to receive you; whose heart and home has always been open to the fraters.

We who know Sir CARPENTER can duly appreciate every utterance of his heart. Personally the writer hopes ere long to learn of Sir CARPENTER's complete recovery from failing eyesight. Though his eyes are dim, yet the intellect of his soul holds sway throughout the templar world.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander during the year:

1. Action on the petition of a Sir Knight for restoration from sentence of expulsion is within the exclusive control of the commandery from which the Sir Knight was expelled. No action of the Grand Commandery is called for unless exceptions and an appeal be taken by some member of the commandery on account of irregularity in the proceedings.
2. The removal of a chartered commandery from one place to another should be authorized only by the Grand Commandery, upon petition of the commandery desiring the change of location, with the consent of all commanderies whose territory would be affected or curtailed by such change, endorsed thereon.

This opinion involves two questions—the perogatives of the Grand Commander and the conditions upon which removal may be authorized.

The code of statutes of the Grand Encampment—*Meetings*—provides that "a commandery can only meet in the place designated in its dispensation or charter."

The statutes and regulations of the Grand Commandery of Illinois, section 15, provides that "charters shall be granted by vote of the Grand Commandery at the annual conclave."

The removal of a chartered commandery, therefore, involves a change in its charter, and I hold to the opinion that it is not within the dispensing powers of the Grand Commander to make any change in an instrument which can emanate only from the Grand Commandery.

The removal of a commandery to another place would disturb the existing territorial jurisdiction of all commanderies which by such removal would be brought in closer proximity, precisely in the same manner and to the same extent as the formation of a new commandery at that place.

Removal should, therefore, be subject to the same condition, viz.: the consent "of all commanderies whose jurisdiction shall be thereby curtailed," as provided in amendment of 1886 to section 15 of the statutes and regulations.

I would recommend that an amendment be made to our statutes and regulations prescribing the form and conditions under which a commandery may petition for removal.

3. "By the constitution of the Grand Encampment all questions (except upon the acceptance, etc., of candidates, and in expulsions and restorations of Knights) are decided by a majority vote."—*Supplement to Code Vote.*

Hence a by-law of a commandery requiring a two-thirds vote upon any question except such as the constitution and code of statutes above specify, is at variance with the constitution, and *therefore null and void*.

4. A summons issued by order of a commandery, or of the Eminent Commander thereof, signed by the Recorder, under seal of the commandery, is valid, whether signed by the Eminent Commander or not.

5. A Sir Knight cannot be suspended for non-payment of dues to his commandery except upon charges preferred and after due trial and conviction thereon.

6. Documentary evidence of identity is an insufficient voucher to warrant the admission of a visitor to a conclave of Knights Templar.

7. To ascertain jurisdictional limits, the distance between Commanderies should be measured by a direct line between their respective asylums.

I believe no decision has heretofore been made by this Grand Commandery as to whether the distances between commanderies are to be computed from boundary lines of cities and villages, or from the locations of asylums.

This identical question has, however, been carefully considered by the Grand Lodge of Illinois, Free and Accepted Masons, in respect to lodges—the Grand Lodge in 1877 approving the following decision, No. 22: "In settling questions of lodge jurisdiction the distance should be computed, not from corporation or township lines, for these are to be entirely disregarded, but from the actual location of the lodge room."

I deem this good law for all masonic bodies.

8. The duly elected Treasurer is the only proper custodian of all the funds of the commandery from whatever source derived.

This decision, which is in harmony with report of committee on jurisprudence, adopted by this Grand Commandery one year ago, was called out in answer to the question raised by a commandery owning a

masonic temple, and whose Board of Trustees having charge of the property, had appointed a treasurer of their board independent of the regularly elected Treasurer, as to whether the revenues derived from rental of the property and expenses in keeping up the same should be controlled by the commandery.

The question was also asked if it was proper to have two treasurers, and if the commandery, when its treasury was empty, could make requisition upon Treasurer of Trustees to pay its orders and *vice versa*.

And approved by the committee on jurisprudence, except the following changes, which were agreed to by the Grand Commandery:

With regard to decision number two, while fully approving the action of the R. E. Grand Commander in this case, we recommend as a substitute the following:

No. 2. "The permanent removal of a chartered commandery from one place to another should be authorized only by the Grand Commandery."

We desire to call the attention of the Grand Commandery, especially to number three, because the statutes of this body, as well as the by-laws of all subordinates, seem to controvert this position, notably in the clause relative to *amendment of by-laws*.

In reference to decision number eight, we desire to say that the duties and rights of trustees of a subordinate commandery are fully defined in section 7, article 3 of the by-laws of this Grand Commandery for the use of subordinates.

TEMPLAR INFORMATION.

The Grand Commander mentions the following facts in his address more in the shape of information than decisions, and we therefore give them in full:

A Red Cross Knight who had received this order of knighthood in Aurora commandery was lying at the point of death.

He was exceedingly desirous of receiving the Order of the Temple that he might be buried with templar honors.

No act of my administration gave me so much pain as to decline granting the request that the order might be conferred in the private apartments of the sick knight. Yet it seemed to me that under supplement to code, qualifications for orders—paragraphs 104, 105, 106, such work would be unlawful.

I knew of no law or precedent that would justify me in permitting so irregular a procedure.

I believe, furthermore, that should the knight recover, neither he nor the commandery would feel satisfied with his reception as a templar, and that it would be necessary that he should be afterward "healed."

I did, however, give the Eminent Commander permission to attend the funeral with his command, as escort to the lodge which would bury him in case of his death.

June 6, 1888, I declined to issue a dispensation upon the request of Palestine commandery, No. 27, to renew the ballot upon the petitions of three Companions rejected April 11.

I based my decision upon supplement to code—ballot—paragraph 3: "After a candidate has been declared rejected and the fact recorded, the ballot cannot be repeated even to correct an alleged mistake."

Also upon our statutes and regulations, section 26, sub-section 3.

It was claimed in this case that the rejection of the candidates was not intended, but that there was a mistake in casting the ballots.

I am aware that paragraph 99—petitions—supplement to code, has heretofore been construed as authority for granting dispensations for a re-ballot in similar cases.

Two grave reasons, however, present themselves why paragraph 99 does not apply in such cases.

In the first place the paragraph treats only of an error in the announcement of the vote, and not of error in casting the ballot.

But even if an error in the announcement of the result of a ballot be construed to include within its meaning an error in casting the ballot, as being the act which produces the result announced, we find, in the second place, that the language used in the paragraph referred to, has reference only to an error in announcing the acceptance of a candidate, not the rejection.

An error in announcing the acceptance of a candidate might result in the reception of unworthy material in spite of an adverse ballot, while an error in announcing the rejection of a petitioner would do no harm other than delay action upon a new petition for six months.

For these reasons I did not find in paragraph 99 the authority requisite to set aside less ambiguous regulations in relation to ballot.

September 8, 1888, I declined to issue a dispensation to Chicago commandery, No. 19, to authorize the commandery to strike from its records of August 6, 1888, which has been approved, the name of a Sir Knight who had, with others, been suspended for non-payment of dues; action having unfortunately been taken by the commandery, in his case, under a misapprehension of facts.

The decision of Past Grand Commander BROMFIELD, approved by this Grand Commandery one year ago, construes the law in relation to

changing records very concisely: "After the minutes of a commandery have been read, corrected and approved, they become records and cannot be altered." I therefore advised the commandery to correct what they deemed a wrong by promptly restoring the Sir Knight to membership, and putting upon record a resolution explaining the facts.

MASONIC HOME.

We quote what this eminent mason says on the Illinois masonic home:

The annual report of the officers and directors of this charitable institution assures us that it is year by year being placed upon a more solid foundation financially, and that its practical charities and possibilities of usefulness are continually expanding.

No more deserving object can be presented to the attention of charitable masons and Christian Knights, and I bespeak in its interest your substantial aid and support.

The dependent orphans, who are now the recipients of your bounty, will in future and maturer years bless the memories of their benefactors.

NEW RITUAL.

He gives his opinion of the new ritual in the following words:

While it would be useless to disguise the fact that the new ritual promulgated at the last conclave of the Grand Encampment, is, to say the least, exceedingly distasteful to a very large majority of the Sir Knights in this grand jurisdiction, and for reasons which they are fully prepared, at the proper time, to give, yet, so far as I am informed, it has been generally used to the exclusion of the old and far more beautiful and impressive work; the templars of Illinois thus proving their fealty to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States.

It is to be hoped that, in deference to the sentiment of this grand jurisdiction, the influence of our representatives to the Grand Encampment at the next triennial conclave, will be energetically directed to the improvement of the present work.

NON-INTERCOURSE.

On the interdiction of templar intercourse between his jurisdiction and Iowa, he says:

Deeply regretting the causes that led to the edict of interdiction which has severed our templar relations with our sister jurisdiction of Iowa, and while I have no apology to make for reproducing the edict of the Grand Master of Templars in this grand jurisdiction, it being

clearly, as I believe, in the line of duty, I desire to submit, without comment, the following communication from the Right Eminent Sir CLARK VARNUM, the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Iowa:

NEWTON, Iowa, July 2d, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

E. S. Mulliner, Grand Commander, Quincy, Illinois:

RIGHT EMINENT SIR KNIGHT:—A copy of your general order bearing date June 20th last, and having appended thereto a copy of the order of CHARLES ROOME, Most Eminent Grand Master of Knights Templar, bearing date May 28 last, has just been received by me through the office of the Grand Recorder of this jurisdiction.

I have the honor to hereby formally acknowledge receipt thereof and to assure you that the duty of doing so would have earlier been performed by me but the reason above given.

As it will undoubtedly be your pleasure (as it is your duty) to make report of your act in issuing the order above referred to, to the Grand Commandery over which you have the honor to preside; and as the eminent and distinguished body, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, will convene in stated conclave on October 23d next, and before your Grand Commandery can be either fully or officially advised as to what the facts are; and as no person, least of all three thousand six hundred Knights Templars ought never to be condemned without a trial; may I courteously ask, in the interests of fair dealing and simple justice, that you will kindly present to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, the protest which is enclosed herewith; and that you will recommend to such Grand Commandery that it do not proceed to sit in judgment on, or to review the actions of the Grand Commandery of the State of Iowa or of its Grand Commander, unheard and undefended, but that it defer action and avoid coming to a conclusion upon the merits of this truly unfortunate controversy until at least the cause of this grand jurisdiction may be fairly presented to the Grand Encampment of the United States which is and must be the final arbiter.

Permit me also, Right Eminent Sir, to suggest that the Knights Templar of Iowa will cheerfully submit to the judgment and decision of the supreme body, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, with an abiding confidence that it, composed of able and distinguished citizens and templars, will endeavor to correctly rule and decide. We may be wrong, but we most honestly believe we are right. We believe that the principles for which we are contending involve the rights and the freedom of the masonic world universal.

But we shall bow submissively to the lawful decree of that eminent body, the Grand Encampment, whatever it may be, for it has no more loyal defender to day than the Grand Commandery of Iowa, nor any more faithful soldiers than three thousand six hundred templars in her jurisdiction. The Knights Templar of Iowa will, however, always be found contending for constitutional law and against attempted usurpation of authority, wherever and whenever made, and regardless of the source from which they may emanate, by all proper means within their power. Whenever the Grand Encampment of the United States shall declare us in error we will make amends as far as in us lies, and patiently submit to such pains and penalties as a valiant and magnanimous order shall impose upon us. But the act of the Grand Master is not the act of the Grand Encampment. Even if we be mistaken in our views regarding the adoption of a ritual (which is not admitted) still the Grand Master does not possess the right to review our action. Still less does he possess either the power or the right, speaking *ex cathedra*, to denounce as disloyal the violators of solemn vows.

That we most deeply feel over the attempt which has been made to place stigma and disgrace upon us goes without saying, and must to every one be most evident. We want to do the right and only the right.

May we not, under these circumstances, most courteously ask that you shall say and do nothing having a tendency to prejudge the situation; but on the contrary that you will give your voice and talent in such direction as shall leave no pangs or heartburnings rankling in the breast of any Knight Templar in either of the grand jurisdictions over which we have the honor to preside.

And to the end, Right Eminent Sir, may I not also ask that you will bring the protest which is transmitted herewith, and also this communication, before that distinguished body, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Illinois, by incorporating them into your official report.

Remembering with feelings of gratitude the kindness and courtesies I have officially received at your hands, and regretting that you have felt compelled to sever our official relations before giving me even an opportunity to plead "not guilty," but with the highest of personal regards, I remain very courteously yours.

SIR ROBERT MORRIS.

Mentioning the dead of sister jurisdictions, he concludes by special reference to the death of that noble and distinguished Sir Knight, ROBERT MORRIS, as follows:

ROBERT MORRIS is dead, was the startling newspaper head line

which greeted and moved to sorrow the masonic world on the day of his death.

Sir ROBERT MORRIS passed peacefully to rest at his home, at LaGrange, Kentucky, in the early morn of July 31, 1888, having accomplished, within one month, his three score years and ten.

A mason of forty-two years, Grand Master of masons in Kentucky in 1858, a member of Louisville commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, the author of more than seventy volumes, and over three hundred poetical contributions to masonic literature, this distinguished knight and poet laureate of freemasonry, has gone from us, leaving not only the grand jurisdiction of Kentucky, but the masons of three continents, bereaved and saddened.

Crowned upon earth by his loving and beloved fraternity, he has exchanged his earthly laurels for a crown immortal.

I had the pleasure of meeting Sir Knight MORRIS at the last triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment at St. Louis, and upon many previous occasions, and learned to love him for his kindly manner and fraternal disposition.

His personal acquaintance among the fraternity, formed by visits to thousands of masonic lodges, rendered him the best known mason in the world, whose memory will long linger among them.

Thus, Sir Knights, one by one, are passing away those whom we love but cannot detain, and eagerly we ask, as their forms fade from our view upon the other shore,

"Shall we meet beyond the river,
Where the surges cease to roll?
Where in all the bright forever,
Sorrow ne'er shall press the soul?

"Shall we meet in yonder city,
Where the towers of crystal shine?
Where the walls are all of jasper,
Built by workmanship divine."

THANKS.

He most cordially thanks the Eminent Grand Recorder for his promptness and efficiency, as well as for counsel and advice, which he is so well qualified to give upon all subjects pertaining to the order.

NEW GRAND COMMANDERIES WELCOMED.

The new Grand Commanderies of Montana, Wyoming and Washington were fraternally welcomed into the sisterhood of templar grand bodies.

AN OLD VETERAN.

We quote the following from the proceedings as one of the incidents in templar masonry that we so love to see:

R. E. Sir HOSMER A. JOHNSON having entered the asylum, R. E. Sir JOHN C. SMITH presented him at the altar and said:

"R. E. Grand Commander: I take great pleasure in presenting to you, one whom you well know, the oldest living Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois, Sir Knight HOSMER A. JOHNSON."

On being escorted to the East and presented to the R. E. Grand Commander, R. E. Sir Knight JOHNSON responded as follows:

"Grand Commander and Sir Knights: As I came into this hall here, and looked around upon this body, I was carried back to the time when this Grand Commandery was organized. I believe I was instrumental in its creation. There were three commanderies in the State, chartered, and another one under dispensation, and I had a little correspondence with the commandery at Alton, and at Peoria, and we united in an application to Grand Master HUBBARD for a permit to organize the Grand Commandery of the State of Illinois. Those three commanderies, furnished with the authority granted by the Grand Master, met in this city, and we proceeded to form a Grand Commandery. I had the honor at that time to be the Commander of Apollo, and I opened the commandery in form, and I, as Commander of Apollo commandery, installed the first Grand Commander. There was a little band of us; I don't know whether there is any of them present at this time; I don't know as Sir Knight RANNEY was present, but I think he was, and some other members. But a change has come over this jurisdiction since then. It is evident by what we see here, and what we see everywhere else, that one who should have lived in the last portion of the nineteenth century, would be considered, a hundred years hence, to have lived in a very good time; one who lived to see the development of masonry in Illinois from the time I first remember it, in 1848, to the present time, it seems to me, is very fortunate. I was not a mason in 1848. But my first knowledge of masonic usage was in 1848, at a masonic funeral in the dilapidated, antiquated and venerable city of Vandalia. It was in the old State house; the windows were stuck full of old hats; there were no blinds. But a good man died even in such a place as that (I presume he went to the good place), and half a dozen men, some of whom I knew, gathered at the funeral, and surrounded his grave, and dropped a spring of accacia upon his coffin, and stood in silent reverence as the earth covered all that belonged to earth of their loved friend. It was the first thing that impressed me of the fact that

masonic institutions had something which looked beyond the grave. I had been accustomed to think that it was a kind of an infidel sort of an institution. But it seemed to me that that accasia, looking forward to an ever-living, ever-blooming life, was a pretty good thing; and when I became eligible for membership and had money enough to pay my initiation, in 1853, I made application to Oriental lodge, and I was received, passed and raised, and from that time on I have taken a deep interest in masonry. If for the last few years I have not appeared in your commanderies as often as formerly, it has been because it is almost impossible for me to be out evenings. I have been obliged to submit to the infirmities of advancing years. I don't go out evenings, and very seldom visit the lodge, chapter, council or commandery. But it is a great pleasure to be with you to-day. I thank you for the cordial reception you have given me. I came here simply to see the room as it was filled with the Sir Knights, without expecting in any way to have anything more than a simple recognition."

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution, offered by Sir DeWITT CREGIER (which should now read "Mayor of Chicago"), was adopted:

Resolved, That our representatives to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, to be held in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, in 1889, be, and they are hereby, instructed to make such official effort as may be proper and necessary to secure an amendment to the constitution, laws and regulations of the said Grand Encampment, whereby all commanderies subordinate to the State Grand Commanderies, shall require a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at a stated conclave to amend their respective by-laws, instead of a majority vote only, as now required.

HEADQUARTERS AT THE TRIENNIAL.

The finance committee recommended an appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$2,500, for the purpose of suitably arranging for and maintaining headquarters at the triennial. How good and how pleasant it is to be a member of a jurisdiction willing, and so able, to give their grand officers a front seat. \$2,500! Think of it!

THE IOWA DIFFICULTY.

The committee on jurisprudence submitted the following relating to the Iowa difficulty:

To that portion of the R. E. Grand Commander's address that refers to the present standing of the Grand Commandery of Iowa, and also to the communications submitted yesterday by R. E. Sir L. L. MUNN upon the same subject, all of which was referred to this committee; we beg leave respectively to report the following:

Resolved, That in view of the edict of the M. E. Grand Master, CHARLES ROOME, dated May 28, 1888, it would be improper for this grand body to express any opinion, as to the merits of the unhappy controversy, and that the communications received upon this subject, be respectfully returned to the Sir Knights presenting the same.

And, on motion of Sir JOHN M. PEARSON, the following resolution relating thereto was adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder be instructed to reduce to form, two amendments to the constitution of the Grand Encampment, and submit the same to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, to be included in the summons to the triennial conclave. The first amendment to be regarding the ritual, and the second to refer to the requirement of a vote of two-thirds majority for certain purposes designated in the by-laws of subordinate commanderies.

PRESENTATION.

Illinois is a great State; it has great templars, and they have a great way of doing everything—in fact, we believe they try to outdo the world. Here is how they treat retiring Grand Commanders when they present them with handsome jewels:

R. E. Sir JOHN C. SMITH—Sir Knight MULLINER: A custom has prevailed in this Grand Commandery of presenting some token of the esteem of the fraters to one who has held supreme command. This custom is a beautiful one, and has become firmly established in this Grand Commandery, and on behalf of the Sir Knights constituting this grand body, it becomes my pleasing duty to tender to you a testimonial of their regard for you. As a templar mason, you will be pleased to accept it. (Aside.) Take it and go home, and show it to your wife and baby.

R. R. Sir Knight MULLINER—Right Eminent Sir and Knights: I want to say, when I accept this beautiful gift, as a most precious token of your confidence and esteem, that I do not need this to assure me of your regard; it has been displayed and tendered to me upon every occasion during the years that I have been associated with you, and I

say this was not necessary to assure me of your regard, but I accept it as a token of your continued confidence, and trust that I shall ever continue to merit your approval. I thank you, Sir Knights, most sincerely.

And here is what the meek and lowly CREGIER says from the other side of the house. (P. S. This was before we were mayor:)

Right Eminent Grand Commander: This side of the house is not as wealthy, sir, as that side. R. E. Sir MULLINER has received a very beautiful token of the regard in which this Grand Commandery holds him. This is the poverty-stricken side; but we are not less glad, and I would like to introduce a resolution.

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery, recognizing the successful administration of the offices of knighthood in our State during the past year by the retiring Grand Commander, and the satisfactory and impartial manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office, we hereby tender a vote of thanks to R. E. Sir E. S. MULLINER, coupled with our wishes that his years may be many, amid health and prosperity.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Of course Sir RANNEY writes the report on correspondence; it is in his usual style. Sir RANNEY follows closely in the footsteps of the lamented GURNEY, and that is praise enough. Michigan for 1888 has fraternal recognition. He says of the address of Grand Commander WILLIAMS, "It has no reference to any Supreme Being." Now, without any disrespect, we believe that in many cases this reference to the Supreme Being in Grand Commanders' addresses, upon all and every occasion, will bear omission—not that the Supreme Being is any the less thought of by so doing. We almost believe it is a habit without much meaning; in fact, more like that part of Grand Commanders' addresses commencing: "We had intended to visit all the subordinate commanderies during our term of office, but"—etc.

THE RITUAL.

Referring to what the committee said on the ritual submitted by Sir RANNEY, he says:

Ah! dear frater, we are forbidden to go any farther. The Grand Encampment gives us the balance. But there is no consistency in using

the opening and closing ceremonies of a subordinate commandery in a grand body which is legislative, and so we made a short ceremony for ourselves, adopted from the Canada form. Coming down to New York, we find a continuation of the same subject. California saw nothing wrong; Canada, Illinois and New York have followed, and no two are alike, while all believe in their forms; even Michigan has been giving it away occasionally.

CALL IT "QUITs."

He quotes what we said under our review of Wisconsin, relative to the *large* appropriation made by that jurisdiction to their writer on correspondence, and "comes back" on us as follows:

Under Wisconsin, 1887, we find the following, and we appreciate the force of the portion in italics; it is *small, very small*; but then our frater of Michigan has not much to boast of, a report of two hundred and forty-six pages, duties of Grand Recorder, clerk hire and office rent all for the munificent sum of \$300; but this is smaller, very much smaller.

We will say no more, Sir RANNEY—call it "quits." Michigan is not a great way from Wisconsin; perhaps a consultation between them as to how they are seen by others may improve them in this line.

CONCLUSION.

Did space permit we would gladly follow Sir RANNEY from page to page of the proceedings, and cull therefrom the many instructive and interesting comments made by him, but we must content ourselves by giving in full his conclusion:

We have reviewed the proceedings of thirty-four grand bodies, the missing ones being Kansas, which meets in May, and ought to have been received long ago; Oregon, which meets in July; Maryland met last November, and Washington Territory, which comes too late for review; the arrangement is as near alphabetical as possible, many of the proceedings coming in too late to get their proper places,

Out of thirty-seven Grand Commanderies, twenty-four meet during the first half, twelve during the last half of the year, one doubtful. The value of those reviews would be augmented if all met during the first half; the reviews would be uniform, and reviewers would have more

abundant time to compare notes, and not be compelled to examine proceeding two or three days before the annual conclaves. We commend this to the careful attention of our fraters in authority in other Grand Commanderies.

Three new Grand Commanderies, Montana, Wyoming and Washington Territory, have been formed by warrant of the Grand Master; we extend to them the right hand of fellowship, trusting their future may be prosperous, that the old saying, "Festina lenti," may govern their actions. It is a good saying, and worthy of adoption by all commanderies, grand or subordinate.

The representative system is being made the subject of some severe criticism. About a dozen of our representatives near other bodies, did not put in an appearance, and we doubt if the maintenance of this system is of any material benefit to the order at large, especially as the reviews of correspondents, or more properly "proceedings," give us all the information necessary. Michigan has persistently declined to interchange with other bodies. We have been a representative for three years, and have never had a thing to do.

We are glad to see that Canada has withdrawn her edict against the two Scotch commanderies in New Brunswick; but regret that Canada's interference with England's presumed rights in Australia, has resulted in the severance of friendly relations between the two countries. The outcome of Canada's action, right or wrong, has been the foundation of a Sovereign Great Priory for the Colony of Victoria, Australia.

The principal source of disturbance has been the new ritual; two points have been raised against its constitutionality, and the rebellious attitude of Iowa has raised a third, which however, are only, as far as we remember, supported by two Grand Commanderies. The points are:

1. The matter of the ritual was not in the summons.
2. It was not adopted by a constitutional majority.
3. The Grand Master had no power in the premises, and that his acts, owing to the rebellion in Iowa, are null and void. And before touching on these objections we extract the following from the constitution of the Grand Encampment:

THE GRAND MASTER.

"SECTION 13. It is the prerogative and duty of the Grand Master, generally to exercise, as occasion may require, all the rights appertaining to his high office, in accordance with the usages of templar masonry.

"And as a part thereof, he shall have a watchful supervision over all the commanderies, grand and subordinate, in the United States, and see that all the constitutional enactments, statute and edicts of the Grand Encampment are duly and promptly observed.

"And that the work and discipline of templar masonry everywhere are uniform throughout the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment.

"Among his special duties and prerogatives are the following:

"5. To grant warrants during the recess of the Grand Encampment for the institution of Grand Commanderies in States, Districts and Territories, where the same have not been heretofore established."

Then under powers and duties of Grand Commanderies:

"Sec. 33. (9) And finally, it shall consider and do all matters and things appertaining to the good, well-being, and perpetuation of templar masonry, but always subordinate to the Grand Encampment of the United States."

Under powers of the Grand Commander:

"Sec. 37. (5) During the recess of his Grand Commandery, he may suspend from the functions of his office any officer of the Grand or subordinate commandery, or arrest the charter or dispensation of a commandery; but in neither case shall such suspension affect the standing in the order of such officer, or his membership in the commandery. And he shall report his action in full therein to the next conclave of the Grand Commandery for its final action."

And the concluding section on amendments:

AMENDMENTS.

"SECTION 67. The Grand Encampment shall be competent, upon the concurrence of three-fourths of its members present at any regular conclave, to revise, amend, and alter this constitution:

"Provided, however, That any member intending to submit a motion relative to a change of the constitution, statutes or rituals, shall give notice thereof in writing, to the Grand Recorder, at least four months before the day on which the grand conclave shall be held, at which such subject is to be discussed, and notice thereof shall be inserted in the summons; otherwise no such motion shall be entertained.

"Provided, further, That the proposed amendments may be modified in any manner by the Grand Encampment, while the same is under consideration. No modification, however, shall be made not germane to the matter contained in the original proposed amendment."

From the code we extract the following:

"XXXIII. QUORUM."

"A quorum in the Grand Encampment, Grand Commanderies and subordinate commanderies consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an officer entitled to open the body.

"XXXVIII. RITUAL."

"The ritual promulgated by the Grand Encampment cannot be

altered or abridged by the Grand Master, Grand Commander, or Grand Commandery.

"GRAND MASTER."

"69A. The Grand Master as the executive head of the Grand Encampment, is by the general principles of masonic and templar law, responsible for the discharge of every executive duty to be performed in behalf of the Grand Encampment not by enactment developed upon others.

"69B. It is not his duty to pass upon merely moot questions; but only those which actually arise in the administration of the affairs of the Grand Encampment, Grand Commanderies or subordinate commanderies."

"QUORUM."

"108. A quorum being present, the vote of a less number is valid."

And, 1. As to the ritual not being mentioned in the summons.

We take the position accepted by the great majority of Grand Commanders and correspondents, that it (the ritual) was in a condition of "unfinished business," the appointment of a committee at the triennial of 1883 to report at the next triennial complying with all necessary laws on the matter. The Grand Encampment never having had a ritual (?) there certainly could be no amendment to propose (see section 67 constitution above), and the four months' notice became unnecessary; if there had been, certainly such an accomplished and learned knight as the late Grand Recorder would have inserted it, especially after the legislative trouble at the triennial of 1883.

2. As to the constitutionality of the vote. A quorum of the Grand Encampment (see code section 33, and 108 of supplement above) is 9, a constitutional majority of that number is 7. Section 67, first paragraph, says (see above.) Certainly that never was intended to mean that there should have been a majority of three-fourths of 272 (that being the number of names entitled to vote); if so, no legislation of the Grand Encampment was legal, for with the exception of the election of the first four officers and the opening exercises, there never was three-fourth of the members present; in fact, at times important legislation was adopted with less than one hundred members present.

It is the same in Grand Commanderies; after the election of officers the attendance dwindle down to less than one-half. If there was not a constitutional number of members (according to the theory of these objectors) present, whose fault was it?

The Grand Encampment was there, never without a legal quorum. But where were its constituents, who knew full well that action would be taken on this much abused ritual? Gone home, or visiting around

the city, and neglecting their sworn duties. But we claim that the ritual was fairly and squarely adopted by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at the regular conclave held Friday, September 24, 1886, at St. Louis. And we further contend that by the same terms, from day to day, all legislation adopted by a three-fourths vote of the members present was as legal as if the entire number of knights entered on the credential list were present.

How would it be in Congress, if such an objection as that of Iowa were followed there; the House or Senate pass laws without reference to numbers present any day, but it requires two-thirds of those present to do so. The English Parliament takes no note of its members present, and transacts business with forty out of over six hundred members.

3. On the acts of the Grand Master, section 13 of the constitution, section 38 of the code, and section 69, A and B of supplement, give some of the duties and powers of the Grand Master. We refer to his power under Mississippi, page 63, showing action taken by him in regard to Iowa, has precedents of a similar character under the Grand Masterships of Sir WILLIAM B. HUBBARD and Sir B. B. FRENCH. These precedents dispose of the first item in the open letter of Sir F. SPEED, Grand Commander of Mississippi.

Section 13 (see above) gives the Grand Master power to exercise, as occasion may require, all the rights appertaining to his high office; and the action he took in declaring Iowa in rebellion comes under that category. Is it possible that the Grand Encampment gave certain powers to Grand Commanderies and Grand Commanders—powers to suspend officers and arrest charters (like as has been done in Ohio lately for rebellion against the edicts of their Grand Commander), and refuse the same power to the Grand Master of the order? No.

Iowa has just met in annual conclave, and if the report of their proceedings, copied from a Chicago paper of October 20, is correct, the question suggests itself that the Grand Commandery of that State, being a body created by, and established under the authority of the Grand Encampment, by again defying the power of the Grand Master, should not have its warrant forfeited, and that the Grand Master declare it unoccupied territory, and issue dispensations to loyal knights, for there must be some, to form and open commanderies subordinate to Grand Encampment.

"The Grand Commandery of Iowa, Knights Templar, at Cedar Rapids, Friday, by unanimous vote sustained every legal point made by R. E. Grand Commander VARNUM in his controversy with Grand Master ROOME, and re-elected him for a third term."

The complaint against the ritual are largely of a selfish character;

so many jurisdictions have such beautiful ones that they hate to give them up: it would be so nice if the Grand Encampment would only adopt one of their effusions, forgetting that there would be another big row for the succeeding three years. We read of WEBB work, POTTER work, HUBBARD work, Eastern work, BOWER (of Iowa) work, Massachusetts work, Kentucky work, Texas work, Illinois work, and lastly Tennessee work; and each thinks his own the original simon pure.

With the exception of Iowa, Tennessee, and possibly another jurisdiction, the observance of the new ritual has been courteously obeyed; but complaints are numerous, of course, and relief is expected at the next triennial; but with such a multitude of suggestions, amendments, and supposed errors, we fear the entertainments at Washington will prove a powerful rival to the Grand Encampment, and that under the Iowa construction of law, very little legitimate business will be accomplished; there will be no give or take in amending the ritual, and we fear that it will be hard to get a full meeting present to act upon any amendments.

Typographical errors, misprints, misquotations from scriptures, uniformity in designation of officers, and the titles given to the constitution, etc., can and no doubt will be corrected at short notice, as they should be; but if any committee should attempt to tackle the amendments offered by Tennessee, so that the Grand Encampment ritual should conform to the beautiful and antique work of that Grand Commandery (twenty-six years old); and then amendments offered by other grand bodies, they will have their hands full, and the Grand Encampment will likely be in session for several weeks. We are content to let well enough alone.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir NORMAN T. GASSETTE, Chicago, elected Grand Commander.

Sir GILBERT W. BARNARD, Chicago, re-elected Grand Recorder.



INDIANA.

THE THIRTY-FOURTH annual conclave was held in the city of Indianapolis, commencing April 24, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir GEORGE W. F. KIRK, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN M. BRAMWELL, Grand Recorder.

Thirty-one subordinate commanderies represented. Ten Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander refers in the opening of his address to a faithful officer of his Grand Commandery, who, during the past year, had been called to that home from which no traveler returns:

At the entrance of the asylum to-day, we miss the kind and fatherly greeting of Sir WILLIAM M. BLACK, who, for so long and so well, served the Grand Commandery as Captain of the Guard. He died as he had lived, respected and honored by all who knew him. Marion Lodge, No. 35, of which he was a member, conducted the last sad rites at his funeral, Raper commandery, No. 1, acting as escort, the Grand Commandery being represented by the Grand Commander, Eminent Sir DUNCAN T. BACON, Grand Generalissimo, and JOSEPH W. SMITH, Grand Treasurer.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions, made by the Grand Commander, were approved by the committee on jurisprudence:

Question. A Sir Knight is indefinitely suspended for non-payment of dues. He afterwards pays the amount for which he was suspended, and asks to be restored. The commandery takes a vote, according to rule 116, supplement to the code, but refuses to re-instate him as a non-affiliate. Should the commandery refund his money?

Answer. I am unable to find any law on the subject, and, never having heard of a similar case, presume it is not one of usage. By the constitution of the Grand Commandery it is made the duty of the Grand

Commander to decide all questions of law and usage, but he has no authority to create either. The matter is, therefore, left entirely to the action of the commandery, the suspended knight having the right of appeal to the Grand Commandery if the commandery refuses to refund his money.

Question. Is it absolutely necessary to always take the banner of the commandery when we attend a funeral or appear in public?

Answer. I know of no law requiring a commandery to have a banner, much less having one to needlessly expose to ruin.

Question. An application, accompanied with the fees for the orders, is presented, and the Order of Red Cross conferred, but the applicant fails to present himself for the Order of the Temple for several years. Should he be charged with annual dues?

Answer. There is no law giving a commandery the right to collect dues from any one except its own members. A Knight of the Red Cross (who is not a Knight Templar) can not be a member of a commandery of Knights Templar; has no rights except to be present when the commandery is open in the Order of Red Cross, and of course can not be charged with annual dues.

THE RITUAL.

Of the ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment, he says:

The ritual adopted at the last conclave of the Grand Encampment, has now been in your hands for a year. You have had time to give it careful study, and have, no doubt, found much to approve, and, possibly, something to criticise.

There are but few changes from the ritual heretofore used in this jurisdiction. Yet I think all will regret with me, that some of the most beautiful and impressive sentences have been either changed or left out.

I can not resist the impulse to call attention to one or two things which are to me especially objectionable.

The word Apostle, as applied to JUDAS ISCARIOT, struck me, when first noticed, as most certainly a typographical error.

I wrote R. E. Sir E. T. CARSON, chairman of committee on ritual, intimating such a belief.

He replied that the word was adopted in open Grand Encampment, after discussion, at Chicago, in 1880, and afterwards re-affirmed at San Francisco, and that is was left by the committee just as adopted. This, of course, settles the matter, and may be technically correct. But it seems to me that we might with equal propriety speak of the "Patriot, BENEDICT ARNOLD."

The committee is careful to say in its report, that it has studiously avoided encumbering the ritual with any tactics or drill, etc., and immediately proceeded to encumber it with several military commands, some of which, at least, are entirely unknown to the tactics adopted by this Grand Commandery.

There has been no action taken by the Grand Commandery in regard to this ritual. The copies were sent to the commanders, without any instructions, and, so far as I know, have been used as the authorized work.

The following resolution was adopted in the annual conclave of 1873:

"The ritual of the Grand Commandery is that which was communicated originally to this jurisdiction under the special authority of the late Grand Master HUBBARD," and still remains unrepealed.

CONFLICT IN CORRESPONDENCE.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That so much of the Right Eminent Grand Commander's address as refers to the correspondence between himself and R. E. Sir E. T. CARSON, concerning the word "Apostle," as applied to JUDAS ISCARIOT, be referred to a special committee.

VISITATION.

Sir GEORGE W. F. KIRK, Inspector General of the Grand Commandery, submits a full and complete report of his visitations, which doubtless proved very satisfactory to the Sir Knights within the jurisdiction.

REVISION OF CONSTITUTION.

Sir NICHOLAS R. RUCKLE, for the committee on revision of the constitution, submitted the report, being in fact a complete revision of the constitution, edicts and by-laws of the Grand Commandery. It was accepted and adopted.

OPENING CEREMONIES.

The following resolution, by Sir KIMBALL, was adopted:

Sir Knight KIMBALL moved that a special committee be appointed to determine the proper opening ceremonies and evolutions in the asylum, which was adopted; and thereupon Sirs NICHOLAS R. RUCKLE JAMES B. KIMBALL and BYRON K. ELLIOTT were appointed such committee.

And the committee to whom it was referred submitted the following:

The Grand Encampment of the United States has expressly refrained from prescribing any system of tactics and drill, either in the asylum or for public display, leaving the matter entirely in the control of the Grand Commanderies; therefore it is the opinion of your committee that the evolutions in the opening ceremonies and work of the commandery should be conducted as prescribed in the system of tactics and drill heretofore adopted by this Grand Commandery.

JURISPRUDENCE.

The following report from the committee on jurisprudence was adopted:

The committee on jurisprudence respectfully report: That, in case of the non-payment of dues as required by the by-laws of a subordinate commandery, the delinquent may be indefinitely suspended by a majority vote of the commandery at any stated conclave, due notice, (twenty days) having been given the delinquent in writing to appear and show cause why he should not be dealt with as a delinquent; said notice showing amount due, and a certified statement from the books of the Recorder shall be sufficient charges and specifications, and shall be deemed *prima facie* evidence of such delinquency.

The delinquent so dealt with is thereby suspended from all templar rights and privileges during the period of such suspension; and can only be restored to membership by a unanimous vote, and to unaffiliated good standing by a majority vote.

It is recommended by the committee that the notice to delinquents shall also show the penalty that may be inflicted under the statute; and the action necessary to re-instatement.

The procedure above outlined is in accordance with the enactments of this Grand Commandery, and the code of the Grand Encampment.

UNIFORMS.

The committee on uniforms submitted a brief report and to which it would seem the committee all agreed, save and except the "kind of buttons" to be worn by the Sir Knights. Upon that vast and momentous item the committee divided; but the Grand Commander, upon motion of Sir HENRY W. MORDHURST, adopted the report with the following amendment:

Moved to amend the report by adding that the buttons to be worn by Eminent Commanders and Past Eminent Commanders be gilt, those worn by other Sir Knights to be black raised; which, after some discussion and ineffectual attempts to further amend, was adopted. And then, as thus amended, the report was adopted.

Buttons won!

CORRESPONDENCE

Sir NICHOLAS R. RUCKLE submits the report on correspondence. Thirty-six sister Grand Commanderies are reviewed. Michigan for 1887 has it place among the number. It is an exceedingly full and comprehensive review and entitles the writer to great credit.

CALIFORNIA.

Under California he quotes the following from Sir CASSWELL'S report:

* * * but once sever the connection between commandery and lodge, and we would not give a nickel for the future of templarism. The Knights of Pythias would run it out of existence in less than a decade, for they are, at least, what they seem to be, and make no pretensions to be what they are not. Templarism derives all its attractiveness and respectability from its masonic connection; sever that, and it stands before the world an anomaly, a gilded fraud, a Dead Sea apple—fair without, but dust and ashes within. But we have no fear of any divorce from ancient craft masonry by the Order of the Temple. The wise and level heads of the order know too well the value of that connection to permit it voluntarily to be severed.

And comments thereon as follows:

While we admit the great value to templary of the three symbolic degrees as a foundation, it is undeniable that the distinctive ceremonies and teachings of the order, as such, gain nothing of effect or influence from their connection with the craft degrees. It is a usual custom to speak of the orders and degrees that have grown with the growth of masonry, as if they were squatters that had built upon the realty of others, without due process of law. Remembering the fact that within fifty years of the establishment of speculative masonry, the royal arch and templar were conferred in lodges, with no other authorization than that by which the Master Mason was conferred, is it not nearer the truth to say that these orders or degrees are structures that the holders of the title have erected for their own use? Is it not a fact that masonry

as a whole gains both in reality, and in the eyes of the world, from the influences derived from the attachment of the so-called higher degrees?

ILLINOIS.

In his review of Illinois, he quotes the following from Sir RANNEY's report:

We have not changed our opinion in the "Muncie" matter one iota; the Grand Encampment action is too blind to give much satisfaction to either of us. The fact is, so many grand bodies had violated the constitutional law, that they were able to postpone action or discussion on the question.

And says:

Sir RANNEY will allow us to correct him. Indiana had not violated the constitutional law, but proceeded expressly within the grant of power contained in the constitution of the Grand Encampment. The granting of a dispensation without the recommendation of the nearest commandery was a violation of an *unconstitutional* statute of the Grand Encampment. If our memory is good, so far from there being an effort to postpone action or discussion, the facts are the reverse.

As to the equity of the case. Muncie and Anderson have each to-day a jurisdiction only excelled by six or seven commanderies in the State of Indiana, and better than at least forty in Illinois. Muncie commandery is the second largest commandery in the jurisdiction, and only exceeded in numbers by four in the State of Illinois; and Anderson has already surpassed numerically more than ten of her seniors on the list. We hope, if our eminent frater ever ventures inside the "*natural*" gas-belt, he will visit Muncie and Anderson commanderies, and satisfy himself that both are "seed sown in good ground."

CONCLUSION.

Admonished that time and space will not permit as full a review as we would desire, we pass hurriedly through the same, giving the following statistical conclusion of this admirable report:

In numerical strength New York again leads with 7,994 members; Pennsylvania is second, with 7,770; Massachusetts and Rhode Island third, 7,217; Illinois fourth, 6,939; Ohio fifth, 5,643; Michigan sixth, 3,768; Iowa seventh, 3,601; Missouri eighth, 2,874; Indiana ninth, 2,590.

Apollo, of Chicago, as for many years past, is the strongest commandery of Knights Templar in the world, reporting 630; Boston, of

Boston, 621; Mary, of Philadelphia, 572; St. John, of Philadelphia, 542; St. Bernard, of Chicago, 532.

Philadelphia may justly be called the templar stronghold, the commanderies there located reporting 2,594 members; the Illinois returns show 1,769 templars in Chicago, while the returns for the commanderies in the great city of New York only aggregate 1,369.

A comparison of the returns of Grand Commanderies made at the session of 1877, with those of 1887, is interesting, as showing where the growth of templarism has been.

In the west: California has gained 140 per cent.; Illinois, 80 per cent.; Indiana, 34 per cent.; Iowa, 134 per cent.; Kansas, 344 per cent.; Michigan, 65 per cent.; Missouri, 134 per cent.; Ohio, 113 per cent.; Wisconsin, 100 per cent.; Minnesota, 150 per cent.

In the east: New York has gained 14 per cent.; Pennsylvania, 25 per cent.; Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 23 per cent.; Connecticut, 14 per cent.; Maine, 25 per cent.; New Hampshire, 30 per cent.; New Jersey, 10 per cent.

In the south: Maryland gains 4 per cent.; Tennessee, 10 per cent.; Texas, 120 per cent.; Virginia, 10 per cent.; Arkansas, 141 per cent.; Georgia, 20 per cent.; Kentucky, 34 per cent.; Alabama loses 14 per cent.; Tennessee, 22 per cent., and Mississippi, 60 per cent;

Grand Recorders' tables are not always a delight to a dabbler in statistics. CHAPMAN, of Massachusetts, in no place gives the location of his commanderies, though he gives a complete directory of their offices, and a list of Past Eminent Commanders, and to find what Illinois commanderies were located in Chicago, we had to look to the pay-roll to see whose representatives drew no mileage. MACOY, of New York, furnishes no statistical tables, but only makes a recapitulation.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir REUBEN PEDEN, Knightstown, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN M. BRAMWELL, Indianapolis, re-elected Grand Recorder.

IN MEMORIAM.

Special order No. 1, under date May 29, 1888, conveys the sad intelligence of the death of Sir JOHN M. HESS, Past Grand Commander of Indiana, who died at his home in the city of Columbus, after a protracted illness.

RESIGNATION OF THE GRAND RECORDER.

The circular issued by the Grand Commander, under date November 14, 1888, informs us of the resignation of Sir JOHN M. BRAMWELL, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Indiana, and the appointment of Sir WILLIAM H. SMYTHE, of Indianapolis, to that position. Sir SMYTHE is no stranger to the writer, and we cordially welcome him to the elevated position accorded him by the Sir Knights of his jurisdiction. That he will faithfully perform the duties of this office, is guaranteed by the ability displayed in other similar positions that he holds.

IOWA.

TWENTY-FIFTH annual conclave was held at Cedar Rapids, commencing October 18, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir CLARK VARNUM, Grand Commander.

Sir ALF. WINGATE, Grand Recorder.

Forty-two subordinate commanderies represented.
Seven Past Grand Commanders present.

ADORNMENT.

The frontispiece of these proceedings presents to view the likeness of that good-looking man, Sir CLARK VARNUM. If the face is an index of the heart, Iowa knights ought indeed be proud of their Grand Commander.

WELCOME.

The Grand Commandery was welcomed in a most eloquent manner by Sir C. H. COGSWELL, in behalf of the Sir Knights and citizens of Cedar Rapids, which was responded to in fitting terms by the Grand Commander.

DECISIONS.

The Grand Commander says of the official rulings asked for during the year, that very few could not have been

answered had the edicts of the Grand Commandery been consulted.

He submits the following to his Grand Commandery as the important official decisions thought best to report upon:

The facts as stated by you are: "A Companion Royal Arch Mason is elected in Temple Commandery, No. 4, to receive the orders of knighthood. Previous, however, to his obtaining any of the orders, a written protest is filed by a Sir Knight, a Past Grand Commander of Iowa, but not a member of Temple Commandery." My ruling is that where section 120 of the statutes says 'a member of a commandery,' it means a member of the commandery which has elected the petitioner.

It therefore follows that the objection is not so conclusive as to amount to a rejection as provided in section 120.

But while I believe the above to be a correct construction of the law, there are many other questions which may and probably do arise as to the advisability of proceeding to confer the orders of knighthood upon one who occupies the position of the petitioner you describe. Pardon me for expressing a few of my views upon such of these questions as immediately occur to me.

1. If the written protest of which you speak contains reasons for making them which, if true, would establish the fact that the petitioner was not a proper person to become a member of that valiant and magnanimous order which is founded upon the principles of the Christian religion and the practice of the Christian virtues, then before your commandery should take a step towards conferring any of the orders of knighthood, the matters charged in the protest should be thoroughly and carefully investigated, and each and every fact in relation thereto fully reported to your commandery by those charged with making such investigation, in order that every member of Temple Commandery, No. 4, might have an opportunity to know fully the character and qualifications of this candidate whose fitness to become a knight among our number is thus questioned; and every opportunity be thus offered for an objection to be lodged which would be conclusive (by being made by a member of your commandery) and which would prevent the reception of an unworthy petitioner.

2. If the protest of which you speak contains no reasons whatever, I am of the opinion that they should be received by your commandery, and by it duly considered and weighed.

It is, in such a case, wholly a matter of discretion and good judgment on the part of your commandery; that discretion and judgment are not, in my opinion, a subject of review, but when taken by your com-

mandery are conclusive. But it is well to remember that the bonds of true fraternal alliance binding Knights Templar together are stronger and more binding than any other obligation can be, and that knightly courtesy is due to another Sir Knight, particularly to one of the rank you name.

Pardon me for saying, in conclusion, that these views are given as being those entertained by me upon the abstract propositions your letter seems to present, and without any knowledge or even suspicion as to who either the petitioner or objector is.

I am opposed to the permitting of any person, no matter who, to be present in any of the apartments of the asylum of a commandery during the time the degree of Knight Templar is being conferred, unless he be a Knight Templar in good standing.

I am also opposed to the introduction of any form, ceremony, singing, or anything else which requires, sanctions, or permits any person not a Knight Templar in good standing to do any part of the work or ceremonies necessary or proper to be done to confer any of the orders of knighthood.

It is impossible for me to give you an official decision which shall govern every case which shall arise, for the Knight Templar may belong to lodge or chapter in this State or in some other; and besides, it is not my province to decide upon the general meanings of the laws of any Grand Lodge or chapter.

* * * * *

Expulsion or suspension from his *Masonic rights* by his lodge or chapter deprives a knight of all rights and privileges in his commandery, and of all intercourse with the order.

Subdivision 2 of section XVII., code of statutes of Grand Encampment:

"Whenever the action taken by lodge or chapter has the effect to deprive the brother or Companion of his *Masonic rights*, whether it be for non-payment of dues or any other cause, he is thereby deprived of his templar rights. But if the action taken in lodge or chapter affect only his lodge or chapter *membership*, then templar rights are not disturbed."

This last is my decision. It is gathered from the rulings of Grand Masters, action by Grand Encampment, and my own views of the meaning of section XVII., above quoted from.

I will follow that if a particular case demands attention, an investigation of the action taken may require it to be had. I will call your attention to a few samples.

By section 185, general laws of Grand Lodge of Iowa, it is pro-

vided that suspension for non-payment of dues deprives the brother of *all the rights and privileges of masonry.*

By section XXIV of constitution of Grand Chapter and chapter third of masonic code of Grand Chapter, it is provided that a Royal Arch Mason may be *suspended* for non-payment of dues or other masonic offenses. While by section XXVI of the same constitution and by the same chapter in the code there is a method of *dismissal* apparently only affecting chapter membership provided for.

You will, I trust, see that I cannot do more for you than give you the general rule applicable.

Especially is this true because Grand Lodges and Grand Chapters have full power to determine the effect of action taken under their own laws by their constituent lodges and chapters; and such determination must, under all rules of comity between grand bodies, be by Grand Commanderies held final and conclusive if jurisdiction was obtained over the brother or Companion proceeded against in the manner provided by the laws of such Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter.

Every petitioner, whether for membership or for the orders of knighthood, is entitled to have the ballot spread upon his petition, regardless of what the report of the investigating committee may be. Such a petitioner is also fairly entitled to a report from that committee, and is not compelled to wait for years for it, but is entitled to it in a reasonable time. No objection can be made by an individual Sir Knight to either the reception of such a petition, the making of such a report or the spreading of such a ballot. No objection can ever be interposed in any way to the affiliation of a knight in good standing who petitions therefor and presents satisfactory evidence of his templar standing except by and through the casting of the black-ball. And if the ballot be clear, he immediately becomes a member of the commandery, and can be deprived of such membership only in the usual ways.

SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS.

On the question of special dispensations he says:

1. A few, perhaps a dozen, requests have been made for the issuance of special dispensations to ballot upon the petitions of candidates in less time than that fixed by our laws.

Such of these cases as were represented to me as presenting cases of emergency have received favorable consideration, and the special dispensation issued. In every instance where such favors have been conferred, two days notice to each resident member of the conclave and the proposed action has been made a prerequisite to the spreading of the ballot.

Such of the requests of this character as did not seem to disclose unforeseen occasions therefor I have declined to grant, and in all such cases required that the petitioner, after petitioning, should wait the statutory period before being received and knighted.

I am aware that in one or two instances my decision has not given the fullest satisfaction to those making the request, but felt constrained to thus hold because of my conviction that such ought to be and was the true construction of our statutes. In my judgment, only a very extreme case will justify or excuse the setting aside of our general laws regarding the time when petitions may be acted upon by a commandery. Admission to the orders of knighthood ought to be esteemed a great privilege. It is much more consonant to the honors conferred to insist that the petitioner should conform to our long-existing and established laws, even at some little personal sacrifice, than that the commandery should indecorously haste to do his bidding, or adapt itself to his convenience or circumstances.

Then, too, if Knights Templar and their commanderies maintain and preserve a quiet and courteous dignity and reserve, our institution will be much more likely to receive from its new members the respect and love to which it is justly entitled, than if in our haste to receive them we shall belittle its grand principles by unseemly fawning upon them or their whims.

2. All requests which have been made for authority to elect or install one or more officers to fill vacancies caused by death, resignation, failure to elect at the statutory conclave, refusal to be installed, and other like causes, have been granted and the authorization issued.

3. Several applications for commanderies to appear and take part in public demonstrations have been made. In all cases where the occasion was distinctly a templar one, or where it was desired that the commandery should act as an escort to a masonic lodge upon a strictly masonic occasion, the permission was given. In all others it was denied. This I understand to be substantially the decisions of this Grand Commandery in former years.

TEMPLAR PARK.

This Grand Commandery seems to be in a "peck of trouble" about their templar park; it does not seem to run well. Better get the base ball boys of Iowa to take it off your hands.

EMERITUS GRAND RECORDER.

Kindly words that he says on behalf of Sir PARISH we

give in full, and we are glad to know the sentiments he expressed were duly seconded by this Grand Commandery:

At the last grand annual conclave this Grand Commandery took such action as was eminently appropriate and benevolent regarding the station and salary of our Past Grand Recorder Right Eminent Sir JOHN C. PARISH, who, through affliction most grievous, had become incapacitated from discharging the duties of that office.

Having frequently visited that worthy and beloved Sir Knight during the past year, I desire to suggest that he is yet, and probably all the rest of his life will be, a helpless invalid.

It is known to the members of this Grand Commandery that he is in reduced circumstances, dependent upon beneficence.

No aid which this grand body or any of its members can bestow will ever assist him to regain his health and strength; all we can do is merely to make the brief time he may yet remain on earth as comfortable as lies in our power, cheer his declining days, and assist a little to relieve his temporal distress.

I therefore recommend that the action taken by this Grand Commandery last year, by which Eminent Sir Knight JOHN C. PARISH was elected Emeritus Grand Recorder, and a salary of \$600 per annum voted him, be re-enacted at this grand conclave.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The address of this distinguished Grand Commander must be accorded front rank, in length, as it occupies forty pages of the proceedings; but we hardly know how he could have said less on the many subjects brought before his Grand Commandery.

The committee to whom his address was referred say that, "being firm believers in the old adage that '*brevity is the soul of wit*,' will depart from the usual custom, waive all unnecessary formalities, and enter directly upon the subject in hand."

Now the question is, whether they refer to the brevity of the Grand Commander's address or the wit. We rather think Sir BLACKMAR is a practical joker.

GOOD FEELING.

The following shows the good feeling that exists between Sir VARNUM and his Grand Commandery:

Resolved, That the Recorder be directed to cast the unanimous ballot of this grand body for CLARK VARNUM for Grand Commander for the ensuing year.

KNIGHTLY COURTESY AND JURISPRUDENCE.

We give in full the report of the committee on knightly courtesy and jurisprudence:

The committee on templar jurisprudence, to whom has been referred some of the matters discussed by the R. E. Grand Commander in his address, beg leave to submit the following report upon the subject of the action of this grand body at its last annual conclave regarding the matter of the alleged enactment and promulgation of a new ritual by the Grand Encampment of the United States.

While this subject, in the opinion of your committee, as it was left by the Grand Commandery at its last session presented nothing of sufficient importance that might or ought to create any considerable controversy, yet from it has arisen questions which go to the very foundations of the order, and demand (if its existence shall be maintained in its purity and simplicity) a true interpretation and declaration of the rights, duties, and obligations of the templar as an individual, of the rights, duties and obligations of commanderies, of Grand Commanderies, of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and of its M. E. Grand Master. Happily for us, the labors which would have otherwise rested heavily upon us have been largely lessened, if not entirely relieved, by the strong and able presentation given it by our R. E. Grand Commander; and the templar world has been, by his unanswerable defense of their rights, placed under lasting obligations to him, for which in due time he will receive from them not only their commendations and congratulations, which he so richly deserves, but also their sturdy support in maintaining the dignity and unsullied honor of a valiant and magnanimous brotherhood.

Briefly we shall proceed to present a few thoughts upon the subject.

1. Was the action taken by this Grand Commandery improper and erroneous?
2. What are the rights of Grand Commanderies, and what are the proper methods to be adopted by them in challenging the legality of the actions of the Grand Encampment of the United States?
3. What are the effects, if any, which may rightfully follow an attempt on the part of any Grand Commandery in good faith to deny the validity and binding force of attempted legislation by the Grand Encampment?

4. How far may the action of a Grand Commandery, if erroneous and illegal, be visited upon the individual Knight Templar who owes for the time being allegiance to such Grand Commandery?

5. What are the rights, powers, and authority, if any, of the M. E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States to revise, supervise, or control the action of Grand Commanderies?

Of these several matters separately:

1. Did this grand body make a mistake or fall into an error either as to questions of fact found by it or as to the law applicable to such facts? If so, in what does such mistake or error consist? Was there such legislation attempted, even, that, if legally passed, it was obligatory upon Grand Commanderies to see that it was duly recognized, observed, and enforced by the several subordinate commanderies under their jurisdiction? Still more, and back of all else, was this attempted legislation legally enacted? Upon the answer to these several questions hinges the conclusions to be reached and the judgment to be rendered. Legislative bodies existing by virtue of law are subject to the law creating them. While they may make laws, they must do so within the limits of the law which brings them into existence and continues them. Whatever is done outside of this limit is no law. It is void, and so void because in excess of power or authority to do that which is attempted to be done.

Such bodies as exist only by virtue of constitutional law are subject to and controlled by the organic act creating them. They may enact rules of government if it is so provided in the fundamental law, but they must do so within the limits and under the restrictions of that fundamental law. Every attempted act of such a body is to be measured by this rule. It must stand the test of an examination which shall take into consideration the limitations and restrictions upon the powers conferred as well as the general authority; and if it shall be found to be outside the general powers as restricted or limited, the attempted action must go to the wall. It fails because the act is unauthorized.

These propositions are, or must be, conceded, and need no further elaboration. Whatever legislative powers the Grand Encampment of the United States possesses are conferred upon it by its constitution. If the authority for an act is not found in this paper, then there is no authority for it. Upon the subject of ritual its powers are expressed in clear and unambiguous words. Any change to be made in it can be made only upon the happening of certain things, and among which is notice to be placed in the summons calling the assembling of the grand conclave at which the proposed change is to be considered and passed upon. Notice in all cases where required is always held to be jurisdic-

tional. It cannot be dispensed with. Common consent of the entire membership of the Grand Encampment, present and absent, cannot ignore this rule. To allow it would be to override the fundamental law and defeat its very object and purpose, and so destroy it. Amendments to it can be made only in the manner pointed out in it. Consent is not such method. This so-called legislation was carried forward without this constitutional notice, and it must needs follow, as night the day, that each and everything that was done leading up to and resulting in its so-called enactment, in contemplation of the constitution, was not done at all. In other words, the action was void because of a failure to comply with a plain and essential requirement of the very law which permitted, allowed and authorized action to be taken when and in the event that certain conditions and prerequisites had been theretofore complied with. It is clear that because of this failure the supposed enactment of a ritual failed, and so failed because of the absence or want of legal authority to legislate upon the subject.

If, however, it should be conceded that a ritual was enacted, and this by proper methods and constitutional authority, still your committee is united in the opinion that there was nothing in the action that was taken by the Grand Encampment which by a most liberal construction made it incumbent upon the Grand Commandery of Iowa, or any other State, to compel the several subordinate commanderies owing their allegiance to such Grand Commandery to use the new ritual, as it is spoken of and denominated. So, too, we are in like manner united in the opinion that the M. E. Grand Master, even conceding that he is possessed of such powers in any case, which is strongly denied, had and has no right or authority to attempt to force upon any person or body, grand or subordinate, not holding a charter or warrant direct from the Grand Encampment, the use of such so-called ritual. Such are not the words of the resolutions which were adopted by the Grand Encampment. These words are the only warrant for the assumption made that it (the ritual) is the only one that may be used, and that it must be. The distinction between words commendatory and words mandatory is known to all, and by all well understood. The Grand Encampment recommended the ritual as the only one to be used, but no more. No power exists or rests in any other person or body to command its use. Until such an order has been made and entered by the proper tribunal, and this in a lawful manner, there can be no disobedience, for the simple reason that there is nothing to disobey. As the subject-matter under consideration was left by the Grand Encampment, it now, as before, remains optional with commanderies whether the ritual then presented shall or not be used. There is no greater loyalty displayed in its use

than in adhering to and conferring the several orders in the manner and with the use of such words as had been done for years before. Especially is this so when, as must be admitted, such other forms and words are the more elegant, scholarly, and beautiful.

24 The conclusion which is reached by your committee is in harmony with the previous action of this grand body, and that is that the rituals attempted to be promulgated by the Grand Encampment were never lawfully made the only rituals, even if enacted, as may be claimed by some. In such a case, what was to be done? The Grand Commandery of Iowa is a loyal body. It recognizes the constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States as a paper to be intelligently and honestly observed and obeyed. It had, and has, an interest in demanding that all legislation professedly carried on under it shall be so done in conformity with it. All other Grand Commanderies have a like interest. Thus believing, this grand body could not consent that these rituals were lawfully enacted, and if so, that their use by its constituent and subordinate commanderies was imperative. Nay, more; so believing, it was its bounden duty to take the proper steps to put the matter in shape, so that a hearing and just decision might be reached. This was done, and in no captious spirit. This grand body had, and has, no grievance with the Grand Encampment. It has time and again honored us, and we look up to it with feelings akin to reverence. We are loyal and obedient children to and of that body. Of course it is possible that we are in error, but the position taken by us commends itself to our best judgment as the right, and we desire to submit these views thus honestly and in the best of faith entertained, and held to the dispassionate consideration of the Grand Encampment in its organized capacity. In all this there can be no wrong. We are all agreed that there is but one right to the question. All know, or may know, that there is not an entire unanimity of opinion as touching the subject. We concede all are reaching out to attain the best results possible by seeking the right. We ask that much for ourselves. To present to that august assemblage the merits of the controversy, there must be an issue framed. There must be two parties, and these two parties must upon the issue joined have their day in court. This body, at its last session, for the purpose of raising the question, and for no other, put upon its records the views of its membership. Is such an act, and for such a reason, treason to the order of knighthood? Do we by such an act, even though in error, violate our templar vows? The suggestion carries with it its answer and refutation. If the position that would seem to have been taken by the Most Eminent Grand Master is the correct one, it would follow that the templar was guilty of a violation of his knightly vow whenever he was

mistaken in his views; and if these views related to the action of the Grand Encampment, that he was disloyal and rebellious. This will not do. To err is human, and this affords an illustration of common life. To commit treason, to be guilty of disloyalty, is unusual and infrequent, yet if to deny or question the validity of legislative action is treason and disloyalty, then are such attributes of character almost as common as is error itself. If an unconstitutional act is passed, or attempted to be passed, by congress or legislature, the time for the citizen to make objection to it is at the very moment it is attempted to be so put in force as to affect his rights. He must deny that the act commands obedience because void, and void because not legally enacted, or because it infringes constitutional provisions and constitutional right. Is the citizen thus objecting a traitor? Is he disloyal? Certainly not. The position taken by this Grand Commandery is the condition suggested. It may be possible that submission under protest might have worked out the same results sought to be attained by the course we have taken. We say it may be, though we are wholly unable to see how; but the possibilities we do not care to discuss. What your committee does maintain is, that a proper course was taken, and that in pursuing a proper course the citizen, in relation to his government and its laws, is not guilty of treason and disloyalty, nor is the templar in adopting the same line of conduct towards governing bodies of the order.

3. It would seem to follow from what has been presented that the action which was taken by this grand body, viewed in any light which it may, looked upon from any standpoint it might be, did not, and cannot, be made the basis for a charge of any masonic offense, much less that of disloyalty and contumacy. Obedience to law, civil law as applied to citizenship, does not mean an unreasoning and unthinking submission to, and acquiescence in, whatever may be put forth as law under legislative sanction and by its apparent authority. An attempted forced subordination which is only instinctive, such as is exhibited by the brute creation, and based alone and only upon the supposed superiority of the commanding power, and the inferiority of the person or party subject to such power, is not obedience. The claim that it is is founded in error. The idea of absolute slavish subjection finds no appropriate place, no home among a free and enlightened people; and this thought comes close to us in the United States, not only as citizens, but more especially as Knights Templar. To obtain and retain the healthful obedience of our membership, our rules and regulations must be founded upon unquestionable authority, and in harmony with the tenets of our time-honored institution. When any action is taken which squares itself with these views, it is entitled to the loyal obedience of the membership in the

United States. There is obedience even in dissent. To question the legality of enactments, and to demand that they shall be adopted in manner and under the forms required by law, is not disobedience. It is obedience to law in the highest and most intelligent sense. The Grand Commandery of Iowa, in the course it saw proper to adopt, was defending the law under which it exists, and for doing this no penalty can rightfully be visited upon it. The Grand Commanderies of the United States must not be put under the ban of condemnation, because such bodies, in the fair exercise of their reason and judgment, undertake to uphold and maintain what appears to them to be the right regarding legislative action by the governing body. A different view of this subject dwarfs the rights of the individual templar, and the subordinate bodies, until they represent but soulless things, divested of both honor and manhood. To such a state this loved and cherished order of ours can never be reduced. An attempt to accomplish such a result in charity and with templar courtesy, must be resisted at all hazards. Let this claim be admitted, and we have sounded the death-knell to all our hopes regarding the future.

4. The order of the Most Eminent Grand Master not only attempts to, but in terms includes within it, every Knight Templar in Iowa. The severest punishment known to templar law is attempted to be visited upon the innocent and guilty alike. The Grand Commandery, and its membership, subordinate commanderies and their membership, alike, are attempted to be disgraced by it. If the Grand Commandery of Iowa has sinned, annihilation of templar rights, and templarism in Iowa, is attempted to be carried to the door of each and every templar household, be he saint or sinner. This, in the opinion of your committee, is all wrong, and that continually. If it shall be admitted or determined that the action of this grand body was a mistake, was wrong, and that for this mistake, this wrong, it was amenable to discipline at the hands of the Grand Master, still the order is wholly indefensible, in so far as it attempts to include all within its obedience, whether consenting to the act or not. Masonic history will furnish no parallel to this. The order is directed to the Right Eminent Grand Commander. The other three thousand six hundred Knights Templar in the State, whatever may have been or may be their views, are disloyal; and disloyal not because of any act of theirs, but because they live in Iowa. Surely this is the doctrine of attainder of treason run mad. The innocent are never to be made the vicarious sufferers for the guilty. All this is not in accord with fair treatment. It is radically wrong, and must have been the result of inadvertence, incredible misdirection, or a failure to give the subject that careful and comprehensive study that it was entitled to.

In any and every view of the case, it is too broad and sweeping, both in the charge made and its consequences.

5. Lastly, is the action of the Most Eminent Grand Master within the line of his duty, and within the powers conferred upon him, resulting from an incumbency of the high office which he holds? The answer must be given in the negative. In discussing this feature of the matter, your committee wishes to repeat in substance what has been so kindly said by our R. E. Grand Commander, and that is, we sincerely believe that what, and all that has been done by the Grand Master, has been done alone under the belief not only that he had the power to do, but that his duties compelled him to do, as he has done. We believe that he has been actuated by the best of motives, by what he conceived to be his bounden duty, and for the good of the craft, not only in this grand jurisdiction, but wherever the templar vow is spoken. More than this cannot be asked, and this much is freely given. For ourselves we trust that a like desire and intent upon our part will be accorded.

The powers and duties of the Grand Master, like those of the President of the United States, are mainly executive. These powers and duties are marked and defined by the constitutions of the Grand Encampment. He holds his office under these, and has no powers not given by them. This must be so unless there is something which inheres in the office, and because of it. That is, unless because he is the presiding officer of a masonic body he is clothed with unwritten powers, then these constitutions contain all that exists regarding his authority. The history of the creation and organization of the Grand Encampment furnishes abundant evidence that it was framed and modeled upon the basis of our national government, and like the federal constitution, the constitution of the Grand Encampment is to be construed as conferring only such powers as are expressly granted, or as are incident to and necessarily included under such grant. This view has been repeatedly taken by the best law-writers of the land regarding the constitution of the United States, and may be set down as the admitted American doctrine. The same thought has been more than once expressed by Grand Masters of the Grand Encampment, and this may be given as the law of American templary. Before it can be said by any one that there is rebellion in our ranks, two things must exist: first, that a ritual had been enacted by the Grand Encampment, and second, that the action of the Grand Commandery of Iowa was an overt act of defiance to, at, and against the Grand Encampment, and not an appeal from this supposed legislation to the court of last resort for a decision upon the point involved—that is, whether any such legislation in law ever took place. To do this latter involves a review and consideration of our proceedings,

the very thing that is by express words reserved to the Grand Encampment.

The attempted action of Grand Master ROOME is in effect the assumption or those powers and duties which, by the terms of the constitutions of the Grand Encampment, are reserved alone to that body. It will not be necessary in this paper to discuss the question whether in any case an order of interdiction may be issued. If it may be by any other authority than that of the Grand Encampment, this is not that case. Any act of a Grand Commandery which seeks to annul the lawful acts of the Grand Encampment, is void, but because this is so it does not follow that such grand body is in open rebellion with the governing body. When such body, and not the Grand Master, reviews and considers this action, it has the undoubted right and power to declare the action void. It not only has this right and this authority, but it is its duty so to do, and it is the duty of the party offending loyally to submit. This is the compact between Grand Commanderies and the Grand Encampment. No such condition of things exist between Grand Commanderies and the Grand Master. The right to have these proceedings reviewed by the Grand Encampment is a valuable one, and no person, however high in official rank and position he may be, can deprive the humblest of our members of this right. The Grand Master in vacation, or during that period that the Grand Encampment has no sitting, is not the Grand Encampment, clothed with its powers and charged with its duties. If the laws have been infringed or violated, he may, and should, report it with suitable recommendations, but the final arbiter upon these differences, and all others, after all rests in and is the Grand Encampment. Such being the case, it is the opinion of your committee that the order of interdiction issued by Grand Master ROOME was outside of and in excess of his rightful powers, and therefore possesses no validity whatever. Were the conditions different, a different recommendation would follow from that herewith presented.

The subject under discussion furnishes much material for thought and investigation. We are fully impressed with its magnitude and importance. If it shall be admitted for a moment that the devotees of masonry are subject to the dictation of one man, that his prerogative is to command, and theirs to obey in silence and without discussion, we shall find ourselves brought to a sudden awakening to the direction in which we are drifting. If the startling announcement is to be made that the mason is but a machine to act when and as acted upon, without will, reason, or thought, it is time to call a halt and take our bearings. Such a claim denies personal individuality, one of the dearest and most sacred privileges of the citizen. To be able to preserve our organiza-

tion in its purity and simplicity demands that this assertion of authority upon its first appearance shall be frowned down and forever laid at rest. If we would retain and hold the respect and confidence of our fellow citizens, we must effectually deny this claimed authority over us and jealously guard our personal and individual rights. To secure for all these rights of the citizen, which are in no way surrendered by becoming masons, this contest is made; and because of this resistance to the attempted invasion of them, we find ourselves denounced as rebellious and disloyal. The charge is not supported by the facts. It is not true.

We recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That we approve of the course taken at the last annual conclave regarding the matter of the new rituals, so called, declaring at the same time our devoted loyalty to the Grand Encampment of the United States and our ready and willing obedience to all of its lawful enactments; and this approval and action is made and taken alone and only for the purpose of raising and settling in a lawful and proper manner the questions involved regarding such rituals.

"Resolved further, That we approve of each and all of the acts made and done by our Right Eminent Grand Commander in the premises, and we assure him he has cordial and hearty support in his able efforts to uphold and maintain the dignity of our profession and our individual rights as men and masons. And to the end that freedom of intelligent thought and action may be propagated and ever be our sure guide and support, we call upon the Knights Templar of the United States in their individual and organized capacities to aid and assist in making these declarations of our rights as broad as the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment is extended."

The report of the committee was adopted with but four opposing votes.

Look out for Iowa when she gets down to Washington. She will be heard from, and we shall expect to see Iowa and Mississippi side by side in the great conflict—pistols for two, and coffee for one. May heaven "speed the right."

REPORT ON VISITORS.

The following report, presented by Past Grand Commander PARVIN, from the committee on visitors, speaks for itself:

Your committee on visitors courteously report that while the attend-

ance of representatives from the constituent commanderies is unusually large, and the number of visiting Sir Knights from our own jurisdiction in excess of former years, no Sir Knight from other grand jurisdictions has presented himself for admission. This is due to the fact that Grand Master ROOME, by his *ipso dixit*, has declared *all* the templars of Iowa to be in a state of "disloyalty and rebellion," and interdicting all templar intercourse between the Sir Knights of Iowa and other Knights Templar of the United States. And in the judgment of your committee it was, under the circumstances, wise on their part to stay at home while they could not reciprocate the courtesies for which the knights of this jurisdiction are known far and wide as dispersing on such occasions.

EASTER SUNDAY AND ASCENSION DAY.

Easter Sunday and Ascension Day were recommended by the committee on jurisprudence to be observed by suitable ceremonies, and Ascension Thursday to be established as templar memorial day; and upon these days commanderies have authority to appear in public without special dispensation.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir ERCANBRACK presents the report on correspondence. He reviews twenty-nine sister jurisdictions, Michigan for 1888 among the number. Of our proceedings he says:

The portrait of the pleasant countenance of the valorous templar chief is the plainest page in this volume. The luster of the printers dazzles the eye and confuses the thoughts. We wonder if the general appearance of the Grand Commandery of Wolverines is as Sheeny as this lustrous book!

Michigan is peculiarly favored in various ways. The Lord is good to our fraters over there. Among the numerous matchless blessings showered upon them, chiefest is "Our HUGH." A rousing speech from him has become a permanent part of the "Ample Form" with which the Peninsular Grand Commandery is opened. Being Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment, of course Sir HUGH felt it incumbent upon him to give good advice. We trust that he practices a part of his own preaching. To practice it all would be superhuman. And long may it be ere Sir HUGH "shall join the angel band."

"OUR HUGH."

He quotes in full "our HUGH'S" address before our Grand Commandery, and says thereon:

Some correspondence reporter has heretofore sneered at us for republishing one of Sir HUGH's didactics. But until that carping correspondent can afford us something better we will persist in appropriating such nuggets of wisdom as this.

We thank you, Sir ERCANBRACK, for the merited compliment paid Sir HUGH. We fail to find more polished and learned addresses given by any one than is given by "our HUGH."

For his kindly review of our State and its proceedings, Sir ERCANBRACK has our thanks, and reluctantly as we do it, we must bid farewell to Iowa, having already devoted so much space to the proceedings.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir CLARK VARNUM, Newton, re-elected Grand Commander.

Sir ALF. WINGATE, Des Moines, re-elected Grand Recorder.

—
KANSAS.

TWENTIETH annual conclave was held in the city of Wichita, commencing May 8, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir J. JAY BUCK, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN H. BROWN, Grand Recorder.

Twenty-three subordinate commanderies represented. Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

The following distinguished visitors were announced by the Grand Commander and a cordial welcome tendered: SLIAS E. SHELDON, Representative of the M. E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, and Sir Knight R. ALLEN HALL, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Michigan.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander during the year:

Question. After a petition for the orders has been referred to a committee for investigation can it be withdrawn, or must it be voted on?

Answer. It may be withdrawn by unanimous consent.

Newton commandery, No. 9, at its regular conclave in May decided to "call off" until September, unless convened by order of the Eminent Commander.

Some petitions for the orders being handed in, the Eminent Commander called a meeting for the regular night in June, and a sufficient number of fraters attended. Said petitions were presented and referred and on the night of the regular conclave in July the applicants were elected.

The reading of the minutes at the regular conclave in September disclosed these facts, whereupon seven members of the commandery filed a written protest against conferring the orders on said Companions so elected for the reason that they had not been *duely* elected, the meetings being *special*.

Considerable feeling being manifested, and the usefulness of that able and vigorous commandery being imperiled, I visited the commandery at its regular conclave in October and presided thereat.

The aforesaid matters being thoroughly canvassed, the regular conclaves being fixed by the by-laws of the commandery, and as the applicants could not be presumed to know anything that occurred in the asylum, and as no bad faith on their part was suggested, I decided that the elections were valid and that the only way to prevent their receiving the orders was to make the ordinary regular objection. At my suggestion, a time was fixed for a special conclave, at or before which time the dissatisfied fraters could decide upon the course they would pursue. All but one of the Companions elect received the orders of knighthood.

I regret to say that I found an unhealthy condition existing, but am happy to report that the assumed breach seems to have been closed in harmony.

The Eminent Commander of Askelton, No. 6, on July 13, 1887, propounded this

Question. Can a commandery receive and act upon a petition wherein after the words "Christian religion" is inserted "in preference to any other known system of religion?"

I returned the following

Answer. Your commandery cannot receive and act upon that

petition. A man who is a *firm believer* in the Christian religion, in *preference* to any other known system of religion, does *not believe* in anything divinely religious.

Of the different dogmas that are presented to mankind, he simply thinks *that* one the least objectionable.

Templar masonry implies and requires a belief in three things:

1. The divinity of CHRIST.

2. His vicarious atonement.

3. Salvation through that belief and obedience to "the word" and a life patterned after that of the Saviour.

That we all fall short of our model, does not change the model.

And reported upon as follows by the committee on jurisprudence:

1. Paragraph 5 of section 34, of the statutes of the Grand Encampment, reads as follows:

"When a petition has been presented to a commandery, it cannot be withdrawn, unless it shall appear that the commandery has not jurisdiction over the petitioner."

It follows that a failure of jurisdiction is the only contingency in which a petition can be withdrawn.

Unanimous consent of the commandery cannot authorize a withdrawal of a petition; and your committee therefore disagrees with, and dissents from, this decision of the R. E. Grand Commander.

2. Your committee approves this decision, for the facts stated show the petitions were received at a regular conclave, and that the petitioners were elected at a regular conclave.

The fact that the commandery was "called off" from May to September, unless convened by order of the Eminent Commander, does not constitute a meeting held at the regular time therefor a special meeting. The notice given by the Eminent Commander was for the convenience of the members of the commandery; and a meeting held pursuant to such notice at a time when the commandery could legally meet was a regular meeting.

3. Your committee approves this decision under authority of paragraph 2, section 34, of the statutes of the Grand Encampment, which provides that the petitioner shall declare that he is a *firm believer* in the Christian religion.

No one has authority to depart from the strict requirement of the law in this regard.

Your committee has also duly considered the resolution instructing it to report a standing regulation as to the power of a commandery in

the matter of waiving jurisdiction over a rejected candidate, and reports as follows:

That the existing statutes of the Grand Encampment (paragraphs 9 and 10 of section 34) supply all necessary information on the subject.

Said paragraphs are as follows:

"9. *When a rejected petition may be renewed.* In the absence of any statute by the governing Grand Commandery to the contrary, the petition of one who has been rejected cannot be renewed until at least six months after such rejection.

"10. *When.* It may then be received by the commandery in whose jurisdiction the petitioner then resides; *Provided*, the commandery by which he was rejected consents to waive its jurisdiction."

IN MEMORIAM.

Suitable mention is made by the Grand Commander of the death of Sir JOHN McCULLAGH, Grand Captain General, who died February 9, 1888, and whose chair was clothed with the habiliments of mourning during the conclave, as a slight token of esteem towards the good knight.

JURISPRUDENCE.

The following report from the committee on jurisprudence was adopted:

Your committee on jurisprudence, having considered the subject of the powers of the Grand Commandery to organize a new commandery under dispensation, or by charter, upon petition to it direct, by a constitutional number of Knights Templar, and after a full examination of the laws of the Grand Encampment and of this Grand Commandery, having considered whether any condition precedent is required to give the Grand Commandery jurisdiction of the petition, respectfully report:

The constitution of the Grand Encampment provides—

SECTION 9. (Relating to the powers of the Grand Encampment.) Paragraph 6: "It may grant or withhold warrants, dispensations and charters, for the new grand or subordinate commanderies."

SECTION 33. (Relating to the powers of a Grand Commandery.) Paragraph 6: "It may grant or withhold dispensations and charters for new commanderies."

SECTION 13. (Relating to the powers of the Grand Master.) Paragraph 4: "To grant letters of dispensation, during the recess of the Grand Encampment, for the institution of new commanderies."

SECTION 37. (Relating to the powers of the Grand Commander.)

Paragraph 2: "He shall have the power and authority, during the recess of his Grand Commandery, to grant letters of dispensation to nine or more petitioners residing within his jurisdiction, and possessing the constitutional qualifications empowering them to form and open a commandery."

Paragraph 4: "But no letters of dispensation for constituting a new commandery shall be issued, save upon the recommendation of the commandery in the same territorial jurisdiction nearest the location of the new commandery prayed for."

From the sections of the constitution above quoted, it appears that authority is conferred upon a Grand Commander to issue letters of dispensation, only upon the recommendation of the commandery nearest the location of the new commandery, but no such restriction appears upon the action of the Grand Encampment, or of a Grand Commandery, or the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. It is a rule that when a matter or thing is expressed, it ceases to be implied by law. It is a maximum of the law that the expression of one thing is the exclusion of its opposite. It is apparent that the framers of the constitution did not overlook the subject of requiring the recommendation of the nearest commandery as a condition precedent to the organization of a new commandery within the jurisdiction of a Grand Commandery, and during the recess of the grand body, and unless some other law can be found bearing upon this subject, which is operative and binding, it is equally apparent that this condition precedent should not apply to the action of the Grand Encampment, or of the Grand Commandery, or the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment.

The only law bearing upon this subject, other than the provisions of the constitution above quoted, is to be found in paragraph 3, subdivision 10, of the statutes of the Grand Encampment, which provides: "The petition for a dispensation must have endorsed upon it the recommendation of the commandery nearest the location designated for the new one."

This is substantially the same provision as paragraph 4, section 37, of the constitution, and is in derogation of the other paragraphs of the constitution above quoted, for it is a limitation or restriction on the powers therein conferred, and as the constitution cannot be amended, altered, or in any manner modified, except in the particular manner therein provided, this statute must be held inoperative.

Section 10 of the statutes of this Grand Commandery relating to the organization of new commanderies, imposes certain additional restrictions on the action of the Grand Commander in organizing new commanderies, but in giving a construction to this section, your committee

are of the opinion that it was not intended to apply, and does not apply to the action of the Grand Commandery, and they believe that the fourth clause of the section by expressly referring to the Grand Commander, sustains the opinion expressed.

The paragraphs of the constitution of the Grand Encampment above quoted, were in force in 1856, and have not since been changed or modified. In 1874 a special committee was appointed to rearrange and correct the phraseology of the constitution, without authority to change the substance or meaning; this committee reported in 1877, and the corrected constitution was published with the proceedings of that year. The statute referred to was adopted in 1874, and being in derogation of the constitution, we think should be held as unconstitutional, especially in view of the subsequent rearrangement, correction and publication of the constitution, which does not appear to have been in anywise modified on this point.

In further consideration of this subject, the following cases are cited showing the construction given to these laws, by this and other Grand Commanderies.

In 1878 your Grand Commander refused a letter of dispensation to twenty-three Knights Templar for the organization of a new commandery at Wichita, for the reason that the petition was unaccompanied by recommendation from the nearest commandery, but afterwards when the same petition was presented to the Grand Commandery, it was ordered that a charter be issued to the petitioners as Mt. Olivet commandery, No. 12.

In 1880 a petition was presented by twenty-four Knights Templar, unaccompanied by the recommendation of any commandery, praying for the organization of a new commandery at Larned. This petition was referred to a special committee, who reported in favor of issuing a dispensation, but this Grand Commandery amended the report by striking out the word dispensation, and inserting the word charter, and thus authorized the organization of Apollo commandery, No. 16.

In 1884 the Grand Commandery of Indiana granted letters of dispensation to a constitutional number of Knights Templar to form a new commandery at Anderson, within the territorial jurisdiction and without the recommendation of Muncie commandery. Muncie commandery protested against this action, and appealed therefrom to the Grand Encampment. In 1885, and while the appeal was still pending, the Grand Commandery issued a charter to the new commandery over the protest of Muncie commandery, upon which Muncie commandery again appealed to the Grand Encampment.

In 1884 the Grand Commandery of Michigan granted a charter to a

constitutional number of Knights Templar to form a new commandery at Charlotte, within the territorial jurisdiction of Lansing commandery. Lansing commandery had previously refused to recommend the new commandery, but another commandery at a greater distance had recommended the petition. Lansing commandery protested against the action of the Grand Commandery, and appealed to the Grand Encampment.

In 1886 these appeals by Muncie and Lansing Commanderies came up for hearing before the Grand Encampment, on the report of the committee on grievances and appeals, and although the reports were unfavorable to the action of the Grand Commanderies, yet the Grand Encampment dismissed the appeals.

One further question may arise, as to the force of the resolution found on page twenty-six of the proceedings of 1886 of this Grand Commandery, directing that no dispensation shall issue authorizing the establishment of a new commandery within forty miles of an already established commandery, except it be in cities of five thousand or more inhabitants, but in the opinion of your committee, this, though declared to be a standing regulation, was intended only to restrict the action of the Grand Commander.

The report of the committee on jurisprudence of the Grand Encampment, (proceedings of 1886, page 105; sub-division, page 6,) has been duly considered, and while the opinion given by that committee is entitled to great respect, it appears that the Grand Encampment neither approved nor disapproved the proposition under consideration, whether because the opinion expressed did not meet the approval of the majority, or whether the proposed amendment to the constitution, in the opinion of the Grand Encampment, would not have changed the law upon the subject, does not affirmatively appear, but the opinion of your committee is, that the adoption of that proposed amendment, while it might have given a construction to the law, would not have changed the law.

Wherefore your committee conclude that the Grand Commandery has jurisdiction to receive and act upon the petition of a constitutional number of Knights Templar for letters of dispensation, to open and hold a new commandery, or for a charter for a new commandery without the consent or recommendation of the commandery nearest the place of location of the proposed new commandery; that the Grand Commandery is limited in its action in the organization of new commanderies only by those fundamental laws, which have existed from time immemorial, and which have been known to exist before the Grand Encampment was organized, subject, however, to such construction as may appear just and reasonable.

Also the following recommendations from same committee:

Your committee on jurisprudence have carefully considered the resolution adopted at the last annual conclave, whereby they were directed to report what additional legislation may be required to meet the amendments made to the statutes of the Grand Encampment and the construction given to the laws of that grand body at its triennial conclave in 1886, as well as such further and additional statutes as may be found necessary for the proper government of this Grand Commandery and the commanderies under its jurisdiction, and thereon respectfully report.

We have made a very thorough examination of the constitution, statutes and digest of templar law of the Grand Encampment, and we find:

1. That in 1874 a special committee was appointed to re-arrange and correct the phraseology of the constitution, without authority to change the substance or meaning; this committee reported in 1877, and the corrected constitution was published with the proceedings of that year, since which time various amendments have been proposed thereto, some of which have been adopted, but as no subsequent reprint with the amendments has come into the hands of your committee, it is with great difficulty that we have been enabled to determine the exact phraseology of the instrument at the present time.

2. In 1874 the code of statutes was adopted and published with the proceedings of that year, since which time various amendments have been proposed thereto, some of which have been adopted, but as no subsequent reprint with the amendments has come into the hands of your committee, it has been impossible to determine what the present code is, for the Grand Recorders of the Grand Encampment since 1874 have most effectually succeeded in making the whole subject unintelligible.

3. In 1883 the first digest of templar law, subsequent to the publication of the corrected constitution and the code of statutes, was reported by a special committee, and this report was afterwards continued down to embrace the decisions of 1883, and published with the proceedings of that year, but this digest does not include the decisions of 1886, and your committee are not able to ascertain with any degree of certainty whether this digest has been materially changed.

In 1886 the Grand Encampment directed that a committee of three be appointed to codify the laws and statutes, and report the same to the next triennial conclave.

In view of this proposed action of the Grand Encampment, your committee do not deem it prudent to attempt any additional legislation at this time, nor until after the report of the special committee shall be made to the Grand Encampment in 1889, for when that report is made and adopted the whole body of the law enacted by the Grand Encampment will be more easily comprehended than it can be at the present time.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight BROWN presents his ninth report on correspondence. Michigan for 1888 is among the states reviewed.

Sir BROWN gives in full the report of the committee on that part of the Grand Commander's address relating to the funeral expenses of our late Captain General, and simply says: "Comment is unnecessary, only to say, from such Prelates good Lord deliver us."

A MASONIC WORKER.

Of Sir WYLLIS C. RANSOM, he says:

We are pleased to see that our old friend and Sir Knight, WYLLIS C. RANSOM, at one time Eminent Commander of De Molay Commandery, No. 4, stationed at Lawrence, in this jurisdiction, and whom the writer succeeded as Grand Recorder, in 1877, is as busy as a nailor among the Sir Knights in the Peninsula State. He is a worker in every department of masonry, wherever he may go. Kansas' loss was Michigan's gain.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir THEODORE P. ROGERS, Topeka, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN H. BROWN, Kansas City, re-elected Grand Recorder.



KENTUCKY.

FORTY-FIRST annual conclave was held in the city of Maysville, commencing May 9, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir HENRY G. SANDIFER, Grand Commander.

Sir LORENZO D. CRONINGER, Grand Recorder.

STATE OF THE ORDER.

Of the state of the order the Grand Commandery says:

The reports of the several inspecting officers (appended hereto) will show that the past year has been marked by uncommon activity and growth of templarism in this jurisdiction. Peace and harmony prevail, and nothing has occurred to disturb the pleasant relations existing between this and other Grand Commanderies. The proceedings of other grand jurisdictions indicate a general prevalence of peace and prosperity, save in those (happily few in number) where legislation foreign to templarism, and looking to a recognition of other independent bodies, has seriously disturbed that harmony which is one of the essential features of our order.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions made by the Grand Commander during the year were approved by the committee on jurisprudence:

Question. If a Sir Knight casting a black ball withdraws his objection between the stated conclaves, can the Eminent Commander declare the ballot clear, and confer the orders, or will he have to wait until a stated conclave, and have another ballot?

Answer. After a candidate has been declared rejected, the Sir Knight casting the black ball cannot withdraw his objection at a subsequent called or stated conclave, nor can the petition be renewed, and another ballot had until six months after his rejection.

The secrecy of the ballot must be sacredly guarded, and to disclose the same would be a knightly offense.

Question. Does the Grand Commandery prohibit its subordinates allowing the use of their halls for other than masonic purposes?

Answer. Joint occupancy of halls is contrary to masonic and templar usage, and it would be improper for a commandery to permit its asylum to be used by any other than a masonic body.

He says many more questions were asked, but with the above exceptions were answered by reference to the statutes of the State Grand Commandery.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL NUMBER.

The following question was asked of the Grand Commander:

1. What is now a constitutional number to open a commandery of Knights Templar?
2. Did the adoption of the ritual act as an amendment to that portion of the statutes, no notice thereof having been inserted in the summons?

To which he replied as follows:

Section 33 of the code of statutes has not been altered, and cannot be altered in any other way than the one named in section 67 of the constitution. To open a commandery, grand or subordinate, there must be present nine members entitled to vote therein.

CANNOT LOAN REGALIA.

The committee on jurisprudence submitted the following resolution, which was adopted, the matter having been called to the attention of the Grand Commandery by the Grand Commander in his address:

Be it Resolved, That it is hereby made a knightly offense for any Sir Knight to use or loan to any person the whole or any part of his uniform, to be worn on other than masonic occasions.

THE MASONIC HOME.

The Grand Commander calls special attention to the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, and says:

It was my pleasure on October 20, to visit the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, and to inspect its elegant chapel recently completed and furnished by the liberality of this Grand Commandery, and our brethren at Louisville, whose untiring efforts in behalf of the home, cannot be too highly commended, and should entitle them to everlasting honors. The chapel is a marvel of beauty; is well adapted to the

purposes for which it is intended, and is alike an ornament to the home and a credit to the fraternity.

The home now shelters two hundred and six beneficiaries, and its present excellent condition is largely due to its efficient management. Let us as Knights Templar see to it, that its usefulness and its power for good be not impaired through want of our earnest co-operation and hearty support.

"The heart that feels for others' woes,
Shall find each selfish sorrow less;
The breast that happiness bestows,
Reflected happiness shall bless."

CONCLUSION.

He concludes his address as follows:

Permit me, Sir Knights, in conclusion, to urge upon you the importance of maintaining the principles of the order, by correct deportment and pure lives. The ceremonies of our order are but mockeries, a prostitution of the divinest symbols, unless they are conducted under a solemn conviction of the Christian religion, and the necessity of practicing the Christian virtues. In this day of bold and aggressive infidelity, let us not forget that we are soldiers of the cross, vowed to stand forth in the defense of the Christian religion, and to uphold its glorious banner. When NAPOLEON with his warriors stood before the pyramids of Egypt he said: "Soldiers of France, forty centuries look down upon you from the heights of yonder pyramids."

Soldiers of the cross, more than eighteen hundred years look down upon you from Calvary's bloody brow. You can not grasp the cross-hilts of your swords without being reminded of the awful scene there enacted. Be loyal, brave and true, and forget not the admonition of the Great Captain of our Salvation—"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

With my grateful acknowledgments for the distinguished honor that you have conferred upon me, I now bid you an official farewell, and gladly surrender the insignia of office, with which you invested me at our last annual conclave, to one whose affliction has bound us to him by a stronger than three-fold cord, and with the prayerful hope that the pall of darkness which has fallen upon his earthly vision may yet be lifted, and he be again permitted to behold the sunlight of heaven, and the faces of those whom he loves.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Sir Knight WARREN LARUE THOMAS, Very Eminent Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment, U.S.A.,

being present, was courteously welcomed by the Grand Commander, whereupon Sir Knight THOMAS responded in an appropriate, eloquent and characteristic manner.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir CHARLES—whose surname is WOODRUFF—again writes the report on correspondence. This is his fifteenth annual visit and social chit-chat with the corps reportorial. Dear CHARLES, how old you must be growing, else how early did you commence life in this direction? Michigan for 1887 is most fraternally noticed.

Instead of passing from State to State in this report, we give in full what Sir WOODRUFF is pleased to call "special subjects," and the length of these "special subjects" must be our excuse for not quoting more at length from the body of the report:

The Grand Commanders of templar bodies are fortunate in not having "traditions and landmarks" to interpret for any use of authority, and are guided strictly by the law as plainly laid down.

Occasionally one of these dignitaries refers to "custom and usage"—masonic or otherwise—when he is dubious of the correctness of an official act, but this weak excuse is seldom made.

A careful examination of the special dispensations that have been granted this year by the several Grand Commanders, shows the prevalence of a conservative spirit, and a strong desire to keep clearly within the letter of the law, and only a few such official acts can be found open to objections.

It is within the experience of almost every Grand Commander, that he is written to upon the slightest impulse by all sorts of templars, on all kinds of subjects, and that commanderies make a variety of reasonable and unreasonable requests; and that almost the whole of this correspondence might be avoided by consulting the law for themselves.

The authority that is vested in the Grand Commander is of considerable latitude, as much is left to his discretion and knowledge of the facts in the case.

The constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States, as well as its code of statutes and digest, contains a full and explicit statement of the power of a Grand Commander, and, being the supreme law, is final in determining such power.

Some Grand Commanderies, however, have deemed it necessary to

rehabilitate their presiding officers with the authority already bestowed upon them as above, by passing special statutes: as in the case of the Grand Commandery of Missouri changing its statutes so as to empower the Grand Commander to give written permission to subordinate commanderies "to act upon petitions at stated conclaves within a less period than four weeks," when the Grand Encampment has more liberally provided that "petitions can be received and acted on only at stated conclaves, *unless* by written permission of the Grand Commander."

The Grand Encampment instructs that dispensations for a commandery to appear in public in templar costume should be restricted to masonic occasions only, and that the determination of what is a "masonic occasion" belongs to the Grand Lodge.

To take this ruling in its strictest sense would deprive many of the commanderies of the enjoyment of some of the festivities and parades that they have been accustomed to celebrate from time immemorial, and would relegate "fuss and feathers" into a cruel desuetude, too sad to contemplate.

Hence it would be a bold and cold Grand Commander indeed who would refuse the request of a commandery to visit another commandery, or to have a review, a parade, a ball, or an excursion in full uniform, and with banners and music galore.

We find that the powers delegated to the Grand Commander by the constitution of the Grand Encampment have been enlarged in subsequent enactments, as embodied in the code and digest, and have made the following summary of them; premising that the language of the Grand Encampment constitution is most generally adopted in the statutes and regulations of the several Grand Commanderies.

The constitution of the Grand Encampment declares, that a Grand Commander has the power—To have a watchful supervision over the commanderies; to suspend any officer of Grand or subordinate commanderies; to arrest charters or dispensations; to visit and preside; to attend Grand Encampment conclaves; to see that the Grand Recorder discharges his duty, and to call special conclaves of the Grand Commandery at his discretion.

The "code" contains the following additional powers and authorities:

To grant commanderies permission to appear in public, as such, upon other than funeral occasions; to command subordinate commanderies in public, in his own State or out of it; to install all officers; to authorize a new election, in certain cases, in subordinate commanderies; to grant permission to ballot out of time; to grant permission for a commandery to take another ballot; to authorize a commandery

of the "indispensable number;" to relieve an officer, and appoint another in a commandery under dispensation; to constitute new commanderies, in person or by proxy; to make decisions — which are binding on his subordinates as soon as known; to allow a commandery to attend a funeral of any other than a templar; to permit public installation outside of asylums; to grant a dispensation for a commandery to confer the orders upon a candidate elected by another commandery, at the request of said other commandery.

He retains his title of "Past Grand Commander," and is made a member of the Grand Encampment by his election (and installation) as Grand Commander, and remains a member as long as he is in good standing, wherever be his residence.

Among the dispensations that we have observed in the present review are a few that appear to rather transcend the ample authority conceded to the Grand Commander, and to infringe upon the duties of the subordinate commandery in the enforcement of its by-laws; as, for instance: "Permission for a subordinate commandery to meet other than at the stated time to transact business connected with the triennial pilgrimage."

Permission for a commandery "to advance the hour of opening regular conclave four hours—this being the occasion of the annual conclave—in order that a number of members residing out of the city might witness the conference of the orders."

Permitting seven commanderies to parade on "Memorial Day," and five commanderies to parade on "the Fourth of July"—*because, as the Right Eminent states, "believing as I do that this is a military order, and one that should be encouraged in participating in the exercises on all reasonable occasions.*

Italics ours,—as we deem this lucid explanation an excellent period to our article, already too prolix.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

The subject of "life-membership" has assumed very grave proportions in some of the commanderies in our jurisdiction, and the rapidly growing list of this class of members threatens even peril to the existence of some of the older bodies, where the system has prevailed from their origin.

For instance, Louisville Commandery, No. 1, with a membership of one hundred and seventy-five, has fifty life members, and DeMolay Commandery, No. 12, has about the same number, in a membership of two hundred and forty-four.

Nearly all of these life-members had been continuous contributing members for fifteen years or more, and but few have taken advantage of the provision in the by-laws granting a life-membership upon the pre-payment of a fixed fee.

Either way they now contribute nothing whatever to the commandery treasury, and the burden of expenses falls entirely upon the other members, now happily in the majority.

The term of service necessary to secure a life membership is fifteen years in some bodies, and twenty-five years in others; but the former term is certainly too short, and the latter is probably too long. The medium of twenty years as a contributing member would seem to be fair and just, in the light of actual experience, and following the careful calculations that have been made, and which we will presently quote.

The present life-members have secured their positions lawfully, and in fulfillment of the contract made by the body to which they belong at the time they joined it, and no law could be justly made to change their *status*.

It is a fact that no member is more willing to make extra contributions when called upon than are the life-members according to their ability, but it is not the less a fact, that they are not expected to contribute anything to the current expenses of the commandery, and do not do so.

A strong feature in favor of the system is, that members are induced to remain in the body from having in view the reward of a continuous membership of a certain series of years, many of whom would likely drop out in the absence of such inducement, and the commandery becomes the gainer in money by securing to its members such indemnity from annual dues.

Many members are thus encouraged to keep up their dues who would otherwise yield to the influence of lukewarmness, indifference or neglect, and quietly permit themselves to be dimitted, dropped from the rolls, or suspended for non-payment of dues.

They are also enabled "in the days of financial prosperity to provide for the possible days of financial disaster," by the pre-payment of the amount required for life-membership.

This amount should be just and equitable both to the member and to the commandery, and should be permanently invested on interest so as to add to the revenue.

How much this should be, is a problem of great importance, and deserves the most careful attention.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir HORACE JANUARY, Maysville, elected Grand Commander.

Sir LORENZO D. CRONINGER, Covington, re-elected Grand Recorder.

LOUISIANA.

TWENTY-SIXTH annual conclave was held in New Orleans, commencing February 15, A. D. 1889, A. O. 771.

Sir ALBERT G. BRICE, Grand Commander.

Sir RICHARD LAMBERT, Grand Recorder.

Three subordinate commanderies represented. Eleven Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander, in opening his address, says:

To our knightly order the future gives great promise. The accessions made during the year, and the "work" now being done, encourages us to believe that templar masonry has taken on a "newness of life;" and, henceforward, it will have rapid and substantial increase in numbers.

Templar masonry is a plant flourishing only in a healthy, moral atmosphere. Where ignorance, intolerance, bigotry or vice rules, it does not prosper. Among the good, the wise, the observant of the moral law, the believers in the sublime teachings of JESUS, it flourishes. Not a religion, it is its handmaid.

Symbolic masonry teaches the observances of the cardinal virtues; admonishes to walk uprightly before God and man. In the asylum, a purely Christian institution, founded on the Christian religion, the Sir Knight, impressed with the spirit of chivalry, grounds his faith in the teachings of the Divine Master.

If templarism has no "sectarian system of belief or worship," if it proposes no creed, it does teach the necessity of a firm belief in the fundamental religious truths of Christianity. A frater, therefore, may

be a good templar, without being a member of a church of CHRIST; but he cannot be a devout, consistent Christian, and abjure the preceptive and comprehensive teachings of symbolic or templar masonry.

STATE OF THE ORDER.

Of templar masonry within the jurisdiction, he says:

It may be said templar masonry, in this jurisdiction, has not kept pace with the growth of the order elsewhere. I realize the force of this statement. But, with equal certainty, it must be admitted this apparent apathy has resulted from no inherent defects in the teachings or principles of the order. The real causes were from without; and, for too long a period, tried the courage of the stoutest hearts. Determined perseverance surmounts all obstacles. And we may congratulate ourselves on the splendid results so far achieved. Our beloved State has passed through a severe ordeal, consequent on great reverses in fortune. The fight for mere existence and subsistence, however, is now over. Pending the dark days of adversity, every other thing, save the duty of the hour, was neglected. The heroism displayed in this struggle has been as grand as the world ever witnessed; and to-day may be seen "sweet content" enthroned, where erstwhile, despair sought to preside.

THE RITUAL.

Much of the Grand Commander's address is taken up on the subject of ritual, going over the ground of the difficulties existing between the Grand Encampment and the Grand Commandery of Iowa, and from his interpretation thereof, we have no doubt that he fully sustains the Grand Master in the action taken by that officer towards the Grand Commandery of Iowa.

AN INTERESTING ADDRESS.

The address of the Grand Commander is of more than ordinary interest, and shows much labor performed by that officer, and deep study given to every question upon which he has been called to rule.

CIRCULAR.

We give in full the Grand Commander's circular to his Grand Commandery, on the subject of the ritual:

SIR KNIGHTS—Considering the gravity of the controversy arising from the action of Grand Master Roomé, growing out of the matter of

enforcing the use of the ritual of templar masonry; and the propriety of sustaining, so far as may be done, the hands of the Grand Master, the following is issued to the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction:

The constitution of the Grand Encampment, adopted in 1856, article 1, section 5, subdivision 1 (section 13 of the edition of 1877,) as amended in 1874, provides that the Grand Master, as a part of his prerogatives and duties, "Shall have a watchful supervision over all the commanderies, State (grand) and subordinate, in the United States, and see that all the constitutional enactments, rules, (statutes,) and edicts of the Grand Encampment are duly and promptly observed, and that the work and discipline of templar masonry everywhere are uniform throughout the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment." Under this clause, without further action of the Grand Encampment, it was his duty to see that the work of templar masonry was uniform throughout his jurisdiction.

Prior to the action of the Grand Encampment on the subject of rituals in 1883 and 1886, there was no ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment, and consequently, the Grand Master could not enforce uniformity unless he should have assumed the power to say what was the ritual of the several orders, which power no Grand Master had ever thought of exercising. In 1862, the Grand Encampment ordered a uniform dress. One had been previously established in 1859, and had, to a great extent, been complied with. In 1871, the then Grand Master, in the exercise of his duty under the clause of the constitution above quoted, sought to enforce uniformity of dress. His action met with violent opposition in several quarters; but, at the conclave of 1874, at the largest meeting, as to numbers, ever held, his action was sustained by the unanimous vote of the Grand Encampment, because he had acted in the strict line of his duty under the constitution, in enforcing uniformity of dress, as adopted by the Grand Encampment in 1862. The action of the Grand Encampment, in that case, is a precedent of the highest order as bearing upon the present question.

No ritual having been adopted by the Grand Encampment prior to 1886, (except that of the Malta, in 1883,) no Grand Master had thought of enforcing uniformity in rituals. One having been adopted, however, for the Red Cross and Temple in 1886, it follows that the Grand Master was compelled, unless he disregarded the obligation of his office, to see that the work of templar masonry was everywhere uniform throughout the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment; and that its enactments, statutes and edicts were duly and promptly observed. He would certainly have been derelict in his duty had he permitted any body of templars or any Sir Knight, to willfully disregard the requirements of

the Grand Encampment without an attempt to compel obedience by proper and prompt discipline.

It is said that the rituals were never constitutionally adopted, because section 67 (edition of 1877) of the constitution, requires notice, etc., to be lodged with the Grand Recorder, at least four months prior to the session of the Grand Encampment upon which the proposed *changes* were to be acted upon, and due notice given by the Grand Recorder. This section, it is submitted, is not applicable to the present case. No *change* in the ritual (work) was proposed—none acted upon. The question was, the *adoption of a ritual (work)* none ever having been adopted by the Grand Encampment. Any change in the rituals adopted in the future, may require the four months' notice, etc.

The ritual of the order of Malta was officially suggested in 1874, reported on in 1877, and in 1880 referred to the conclave of 1883, when and where it was adopted, in two forms, a long and short one, and the selection of one of the two delegated to each Grand Commandery, though one of the two forms must be used.

In 1883, Grand Master DEAN presented what purported to be the ancient ritual of the Red Cross and Temple. This was referred to the committee on rituals to be put in proper dramatic form with the necessary rubrics, to be reported to the Grand Encampment at its conclave in 1886, and *its adoption* deferred to that meeting. At that meeting in St. Louis, in 1886, the question of rituals came up in due course of proceedings, when, as to the ritual of the Red Cross, on motion of Sir Knight SHERLEY, of Kentucky, "it was resolved that the same be approved and adopted," (p. 152.)

On the consideration of the question to postpone action on the ritual of the temple to a subsequent session, a protracted discussion ensued; no one raised the point of legality of the proceeding for want of proper notice. Sir Knight LILLY, of New Jersey, on behalf of Sir Knight HORNOR, of Louisiana, offered resolutions on this question to postpone, for which a substitute, proposed by Sir Knight LLOYD, of California, was accepted by Sir Knight LILLY, "whereupon (p. 155), Sir Knight DUDLEY, of Nebraska, offered the following resolution as a substitute for that of Sir Knight LLOYD, which was adopted: *Resolved*, that the reported ritual be adopted."

The adoption of these resolutions fixed the rituals of the orders of the Red Cross and the Temple, and being the rituals established by the Grand Encampment, it became the duty of the Grand Master, under the constitution and his obligations of office, to see them put in practice, "that the work of templar masonry everywhere are uniform throughout the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment."

The resolutions, subsequently adopted by the Grand Encampment, merely provided how rituals should be promulgated and copies distributed, recommending them as the established rituals in use of the order. They did not, nor can they, take anything from the force of the resolution *adopting* the rituals, nor from the duty of the Grand Master to enforce a uniform work throughout the jurisdiction.

We have nothing to do with the criticisms on the language of the rituals, nor with changes in them which may be thought desirable. Such *changes* may be made hereafter by the Grand Encampment, when coming before it in a proper and constitutional manner, as it, in its assembled wisdom may determine. But now they are the rituals (the work) of templar masonry and should be observed so long as they remain such.

In support of law, good order, and a sense of our obligation to the Grand Master, (acting as we think he is, in the strict line of his duty), and to the Grand Encampment, this circular is issued to the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The committee, to whom was referred the address of the Grand Commander, submitted the following majority and minority report; and, after considerable discussion, the minority report was adopted as an amendment to the majority report:

Your committee, to whom was referred the address of the Grand Commander, report that they concur in the sentiments expressed by him, and especially as to the nature and ends proposed by our organization.

We recommend that the appointment of representatives be approved.

We recommend that the official acts of the Grand Commander be affirmed, and agree as to the correctness of his rulings as being in accordance with templar jurisprudence and the statutes of the order.

MINORITY REPORT.

The undersigned, minority of the committee, concurs in the report, except so much as endorses the approval of the orders of the Grand Master in the matter of the Grand Commandery of Iowa, and submits his views in the following resolution, of which he recommends the adoption:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Grand Commandery, Grand Master ROOME exceeded his powers in interdicting knightly intercourse with *all* our fraters of Iowa.

CORRESPONDENCE

No report on correspondence.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir DAVID R. GRAHAM, New Orleans, elected Grand Commander.

Sir RICHARD LAMBERT, New Orleans, re-elected Grand Recorder.

MAINE.

THIRTY-SEVENTH annual conclave was held in the city of Portland, commencing May 2, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir WILLIAM J. BURNHAM, Grand Commander.

Sir STEPHEN BERRY, Grand Recorder.

Fifteen subordinate commanderies represented. Four Past Grand Commanders present.

DISPENSATION GRANTED.

Dispensation was granted to form a new commandery at Houlton.

DECISIONS.

The Grand Commander says the following are the only questions decided by him during the past year, which require special mention, all the others having been settled by reference to the constitution and code of statutes:

Question. Has the Recorder a right to give a dimit to a Sir Knight, who is clear on the books, without bringing it before the commandery?

Answer. No. The Recorder should present the request at the next stated conclave, when, if no charges are preferred against the Sir Knight, the Eminent Commander should order the Recorder to forward the dimit as per request. The commandery has no right to refuse such a request, without preferring charges, but the Recorder should not give the dimit without authority from the commandery or from the Eminent Commander, who is its executive head.

Question. If the commandery fails to have the stated conclave, what then is the duty of the Recorder?

Answer. The Eminent Commander should order the Recorder to forward the dimit, and enter upon the records a statement of the facts covering the request, and reason for omission of the stated conclave.

Membership in a commandery, as in all masonic bodies, is a voluntary matter, and no one can be forced into an unwilling continuation of membership.

JURISPRUDENCE.

The committee on jurisprudence, to whom they were referred, submitted the following report:

1. The first decision of last year is in accordance with the law as generally, but not universally, declared; and we recommend that it be approved.

2. The second decision is justified by usage in this jurisdiction, so far as commanderies are concerned. In the other masonic bodies it is not law, and it is questionable whether the usage is justified by the principles upon which templar law is founded. The general principle in relation to masonic funds is that beyond the amount required for ordinary expenses, they are trust funds held for charitable purposes, and cannot legally or properly be diverted from those purposes. This is especially true of funds which have been accumulated in former years. In making this decision Grand Commander SHAW undoubtedly had in mind the current income of the commandery, and we believe that the decision should be limited to that income.

To adopt as law a proposition which would allow a commandery to spend in a single year, "for social purposes," funds which have been carefully saved by members of former years, is certainly impolitic, and quite as certainly not in accordance with the principles of templar masonry.

In other jurisdictions this decision has been noticed, and, in some cases, its correctness denied; in those jurisdictions it is held that, outside the usual expenses incident to the work of the commandery, the expenses of pilgrimages, etc., must be borne by those participating.

The committee recommend that the decision be approved, but limited to the funds derived from the current income of the commandery.

3. The Grand Encampment, at its late session, decided that a member not under charges is entitled to a dimit without a vote of the commandery; we find the decision of Grand Commander BURNHAM, announced this year, agrees with that decision, and we recommend that it be approved.

THE RITUAL.

After quoting the resolutions of the Grand Encampment, recommending the ritual, the Grand Commander says:

Copies of this ritual, forwarded by the Grand Encampment, were duly received, and distributed to the various commanderies at our last annual conclave. No special orders were given, as to the adoption and use of this ritual, it not being thought necessary, as, in the words of Grand Commander SHAW, one year ago, "Maine is too loyal not to accept it."

As the constitution of the Grand Encampment requires the presence of nine members to constitute a quorum for opening a commandery, under general orders, No. 1, the use of any word expressive of a less number than nine was prohibited, referring to pages 42 and 55 of the ritual.

To replace an old work with a new one will ordinarily occasion some delay; where officers are well versed in one method, they are quite likely to hesitate before undertaking a different one, especially so if their term of office has nearly closed; it was, therefore to be expected that some little time would be required for the complete adoption of this new ritual. Some of the commanderies entered immediately upon its use; others have delayed, and the year has been one of transition; the coming season will doubtless find it adopted and in use by every subordinate of our jurisdiction. There is certainly no good reason for it to be otherwise; after a fair trial and comparison with this, as against the old work, we shall be better satisfied with it than with the old work, to which we had become so much attached. At the next triennial conclave, it will probably have some revision, be relieved of its crudities and inconsistencies, and its tactics made more in harmony with itself; but as a whole it is an improvement, and will probably continue as the standard and uniform ritual of our order in the United States.

The ritual for the shorter form of the Order of Malta should be made complete of itself, and without repeated reference to the longer form for some of its parts. I trust it may be done.

The method, and especially the present form in which these rituals have been issued, has been severely criticised in some jurisdictions. It might have been better had some other and a safer course been pursued, as a means of security; there cannot be too much care exercised in keeping them from a public inspection.

SALUTATION TO THE GRAND MASTER.

Of Sir STEPHEN BERRY's Christmas salutation to the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment he says:

The invitation of Eminent Sir STEPHEN BERRY, chairman of the committee on correspondence, for the Sir Knights to join, at 12 M., standard time, equal to 5 P. M., Greenwich time, in a libation to our "M. E. Grand Master," has met with a very general response throughout the world, and I trust will be continued. May we have one heart and one mind in our loving loyalty to the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

The Grand Commander refers to the action taken on the temperance question, by most grand bodies, and says:

In looking over the proceedings of different Grand Commanderies, and other grand masonic bodies, the attention which has been given, within the past few years, to the subject of temperance, is particularly noticeable. In some jurisdictions strong expressions against the inordinate use of intoxicating liquors among the fraternity have been adopted, and in others emphatic measures to prohibit the admission of any person engaged in the manufacture of or traffic in the same. This indicates the healthy growth of a public moral sentiment, which it is hoped may ever continue.

How can one wield his sword in behalf of purity and innocence, or stand forth in defense of our blessed religion, unless his head is clear, and his mind free, to control and guide his actions?

Knights Templar should so live upon the principles of the cardinal virtues that no untoward influence shall go out from them to the prejudice of our noble institution.

And so say we all.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RITUAL.

Sir Knight DRUMMOND, for the special committee on ritual, reported verbally that the committee considered unwise the action of the Grand Encampment in regard to the dissemination of the ritual, and that the subject of retrieving the error should be brought to the attention of that grand body. They recommended that a committee be appointed to draft a memorial and submit it to this Grand Commandery next year for its action.

So even Sir DRUMMOND is not truly loyal. We blush to think that he would even question an edict coming from

the highest authority of templar masonry, as recognized by all loyalists. Sir DRUMMOND, it will never do.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir STEPHEN BERRY submitted the report on correspondence. Thirty-seven sister grand jurisdictions are fraternally reviewed, Michigan for 1887 among the number.

Little can be said of this report, except that it bears the impress of willing hands and templar brain.

DAKOTA.

He says, under the proceedings of Dakota:

A resolution was offered and referred to the next conclave, aimed at clandestine bodies. It specifies among the regular bodies, "The Grand Consistory" and the "General Royal Arch Chapter of the United States." We suspect it will not be adopted without more careful designation.

They have hardly got the right name for the right thing in that western Territory; but Ohio will post them in due time, and they will make no mistake in letting loose the dogs of war.

NOT A GOOD NAME.

Of the charter granted for a new commandery in Kansas, the committee say:

A charter for a new commandery, to be called Abd-el-Kader, was granted. That would be a good name for a Mystic Shrine, but it is hardly templar or Christian. This matter of names is not a light one, for the future critic may judge from it how much appreciation we have of our "sacred mission," in what we call our minds.

We believe the criticism a good one.

STATISTICS.

The usual statistics appear in the report, and from which we gather the following:

Pennsylvania does not lead New York, as we anticipated, although she is treading close upon the heels of the giantess.

The year may be considered prosperous, for, although we have not gained so much as last year, the gain is much larger than in 1886.

Three Grand Commanderies come quite closely together in mem-

ship. California has 28 commanderies, with 2,166 members; Maine, 17 commanderies, with 2,065 members; and Wisconsin 20 commanderies, with 1,933 members. The two Vs, Vermont and Virginia, are also close together. Maryland, Nebraska and Tennessee are triplets. Connecticut, Kentucky and Minnesota, also go arm in arm; while New Hampshire and New Jersey saunter off together, leading their smaller sister, Texas, be the hand.

The total membership in the United States has increased 2,919, or a trifle over 4 per cent., against 4½ per cent. last year.

The western States and Territories are getting to the head and the southern States to the foot; but all are working up their material closer, except Florida, Alabama, Nebraska and the District of Columbia. Perhaps if we had as late returns from the District of Columbia templars as from the Grand Lodge, it might be proved to hold its own. Wyoming gallantly leads, although she is one of the babies. It is gratifying to see how nobly Massachusetts and Rhode Island and Pennsylvania hold their grip. New York has gone down from No. 16 to No. 29, and Maine from No. 21 to No. 31; but can console themselves that in numbers New York ranks No. 1, and Maine No. 11.

The average proportion in 1878 was one in twelve; it is now one in eight.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOSEPH A. LOCKE, Portland, elected Grand Commander.

Sir IRA BERRY, Portland, re-elected Grand Recorder.



MARYLAND.

EIGHTEENTH annual conclave was held in the city of Baltimore, commencing November 27, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir J. A. CHARLES KAHLER, Grand Commander.

Sir CHARLES THOMAS SISCO, Grand Recorder.

Eight subordinate commanderies represented. Ten Past Grand Commanders present.

THE RITUAL.

Of the new ritual the Grand Commander says:

The new ritual is a subject which is agitating the templar jurisdiction of the United States. I have received numerous communications from prominent templars in various parts of the country, asking an expression of opinion relating to the new ritual adopted at the last triennial conclave. I, therefore, recommend that this Grand Commandery instruct their representatives to the next triennial to act in accord with any resolution having as its end the recall of the present ritual, and the issue of such as may embody the essential features of the ceremonies of the order.

CHARTER RESTORED.

For good reasons appearing the Grand Commander restored the charter of Palestine Commandery, No. 7, whose charter had been surrendered some time before.

MUST BE OBEYED.

The Grand Commander was asked if the new ritual was to be obeyed literally, to which he replied:

"Ritual having been adopted by the Grand Encampment at Saint Louis, there was no alternative but to obey it literally."

A FAITHFUL OFFICER.

The Grand Commander refers to the retirement of Sir SISCO from the office of Grand Recorder, and says:

I regret to be compelled to announce that Eminent Sir CHARLES T.

Sisco, who has long and faithfully served this Grand Commandery as Recorder, has expressed his positive intention to retire from the position of Recorder of this Grand Body after the conclusion of the present annual conclave.

To say that I receive this declination on his part with regret but feebly expresses my feelings, and Sir Sisco retires with my sincere regard and esteem, as an evidence of my high appreciation of his many acts of friendship and courtesy during my term of office.

And the committee to whom that part of his address was referred, say:

In common with all Sir Knights of this jurisdiction we regret to learn of the declination of Eminent Sir CHAS. T. Sisco, to act as Grand Recorder in the future, and the R. E. Grand Commander but feebly expresses the feelings of all at the severance of his official relations with us. He has endeared himself to all by his uniform knightly and gentlemanly conduct.

We part with Sir Sisco with regret; for years we have been with him in spirit. We wish him God speed in his retirement from public masonic life, at the same time welcome Sir JOHN H. MILLER to this responsible position, and greet him kindly as a member of the "order of Grand Recorders."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The report on correspondence is written by Past Grand Commander J. S. GORGAS; he reviews thirty-six sister jurisdictions, Michigan for 1888 among the number.

He compliments us highly by quoting the remarks of "our HUGH" at the opening of the Grand Commandery, and speaks of his response to the welcome accorded him in the highest terms.

We are glad to know that "our HUGH" lives beyond the borders of Michigan in the hearts of templar masons.

OUR LOYALTY.

Sir GORGAS commends our loyalty to the ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment and says:

For notwithstanding this ritual may not be regarded with universal favor, yet the laws and edicts of the Grand Encampment should be

strictly obeyed, and a constitutional method resorted to in all cases where modification is thought to be proper and requisite.

OHIO.

Page after page of this report we had marked for review, but find we have already exceeded our allotted space to this jurisdiction, so pass hurriedly on to the review of Ohio from which we quote the following:

Sir E. T. CARSON presented his twelfth annual report on correspondence, in which the proceedings of thirty-five grand bodies are reviewed, among the number, Maryland for 1886, to which no less than six and a half pages are given.

Once we used the title M. D., which we rightfully possess, in affixing our name to a report, or the printer may have done so, as we are generally known by the title such letters represent, and this act appears to disturb our venerable Ohio correspondent no little.

Now, as we earn our bread by the sweat of our brow in professional labors, we may still further afford subject matter to Sir CARSON, by stating that we do not depend upon, or receive from any branch of Masonry, or any organization composed of masons, if Sir CARSON likes the latter better, *one cent* or more, towards our support, or for any services rendered such bodies.

For the past two years only, so far as we are directly interested, the sum of \$50 has been appropriated annually by the Grand Commandery of Maryland for the reports on correspondence, every cent of which has been religiously expended by us for charitable purposes. For many years we prepared such reports for the Grand Lodge and Grand Commandery of our State without receiving even the price of the paper on which they were written.

The present Grand Commander of Ohio who is an old class-mate of ours, is better able to judge us charitably, than the Ohio correspondent. But notwithstanding the latter's departures from courtesy, often indulged in, as our fraters well know, there are many good points in Sir CARSON's composition which occasionally glitter like diamonds immersed in an area of plumbago. The trouble is that Sir CARSON, forgetting the lapse of years, permits his ardor in behalf of pet objects to bury out of sight good qualities which would, if brought to the surface more frequently, benefit his fraters and the masonic order generally. We are proud (and have a right to be) of all the titles which justly belong to us, whether masonic or professional, for they were all obtained as the results of hard labor; and thus we close our notice of Ohio's report.

expecting another "rap" from the same source next year; but conscious of the purity of our motives, we are willing to be misjudged, and even worse, in our efforts to do what we consider our duty.

Sir GORGAS, travel not alone in Ohio; the climate would not be congenial to you.

CONCLUSION.

He concludes his admirable report as follows:

With us another templar year has ended, and our report for 1888, closes with Wyoming, which, as a *finale* has taken the place Wisconsin so long occupied. And, although we may not appropriate as a final clause the term "*Laus Deus*," which is the property of another "Mutual," yet our fraters of the guild will understand the satisfaction we experience when a labor, to which every year almost adds, is completed.

The number of Grand Commanderies is steadily increasing, three having been added to the list during the past fifteen months, and as a consequence, the reviewer's task is correspondingly increasing. The Seniors in the band of Mutuals cannot have failed to notice that greater care is taken by the Recorders of the various Grand Templar bodies at the present time, in the preparation and arrangement of the volumes of proceedings, the majority being models of the printing art.

The new ritual has formed the principal subject matter of the past year's proceedings, and it is to be deeply regretted that its introduction has occasioned the exercise of official action against several of our sister grand bodies; happily averted, however, in the case of one by sober second thought. The inconsistency of this ritual with the statutes of the Grand Encampment, is very evident by a recent decision of the M. E. Grand Master in regard to the numbers required for opening the council, commandery and priory, and a reference to the proceedings of Tennessee in our present report will expose many inaccuracies and imperfections existing in the new ritual. Notwithstanding such objectionable features, it is the duty of every templar body to strictly conform to the edicts of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and to seek redress from any grievance, or remedy for any injustice or imperfection, in the supreme body in which it originated. At the same time the difficulties a committee appointed to revise such a work as a ritual, has to contend with, must not be overlooked in the condemnation of its report, for it is almost impossible to prevent local preferences from appearing, which may not be satisfactory to others whose preferences may have a different tendency. The history of every revised ritual shows this to have been the case; hence, in our judgment, it would have been better

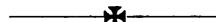
if no action towards a revision of the ritual had been taken by the Grand Encampment, as the differences existing in the work of the various jurisdictions did not justify the troubles which have already arisen on account of such action.

With the hope that all dissensions may be harmonized at the triennial conclave of 1889, and with fraternal feelings towards all of our fraters of the "Guild," and a sincere trust in the principles of templar masonry for righting all wrongs, and revoking all injustice, we close for the present templar year.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir CHARLES McDONALD, Jr., Baltimore, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN H. MILLER, Baltimore, elected Grand Recorder.



MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

SEMI-ANNUAL conclave was held in the city of Providence, commencing May 25, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir GEORGE H. ALLEN, Grand Commander.

Sir ALFRED F. CHAPMAN, Grand Recorder.

Twenty-eight subordinate commanderies represented.
Seven Past Grand Commanders present.

DECISIONS.

The Grand Commander gives the following as the only decisions made by him of sufficient importance to claim the attention of the Grand Commandery:

In the endeavor to correctly confer the orders of Christian knighthood upon such petitioners as may apply for them to Cyprus commandery, I, as Eminent Commander thereof, have the honor to request that you will officially inform me what is the correct ritual of the Order of Malta, to be used in this jurisdiction; and where I may inspect a copy of the said ritual, or who has the authority and knowledge to instruct me therein.

By reference to the printed proceedings of this Grand Commandery for 1883, page 18, I find that R. E. Sir Knight SAUNDERS reported to the Grand Commandery, in semi-annual conclave, at Providence, Rhode Island, May 28, 1884, that a new ritual of the Order of Malta had been adopted by the Grand Encampment in two formulas, and that they were adopted as the only authorized ceremonials of this order to be used within the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment, it being left to the several Grand Commanderies to determine which of the ceremonials should be used by them.

Following an exemplification of both formulas at the same conclave by St. John's commandery, the subject was referred to a committee who reported to the Grand Commandery at its semi-annual conclave, May 27, 1885, recommending "the adoption with slight modifications of the 'short ceremony' as the only authorized work of the Order of Malta in this jurisdiction," which report was accepted, and the recommendation adopted. It was also ordered, "that the ritual be placed in the custody of the Grand Recorder, who is hereby forbidden to allow said ritual to be examined except by Grand Lecturers, Commanders of subordinate commanderies; that the Grand Lecturers, under the direction of the Grand Commander, be instructed to promulgate this ritual to the several subordinate commanderies, that the same may go into use with the month of November next (1885)." See pages 18 and 19, proceedings for 1885.

The digest of resolves, decisions, dispensations, etc., published with the proceedings of 1887, under the sub-head of ritual. See pages 13 and 14, furnishes the same information.

Now, as Eminent Commander of Cypress commandery, I respectfully submit that I have endeavored to satisfy myself, but without success, as to what is the authorized ritual, *i. e.*, the ritual promulgated by the Grand Encampment of the United States as submitted to the Grand Commandery by R. E. Sir Knight SAUNDERS, or that "with slight modifications of short ceremony," concerning the latter of which, by the way, I am unable to discover that the Grand Lecturers, under the direction of the Grand Commander, have ever been instructed to promulgate.

Hence, to save myself and my officers from memorizing a ritual which may not be the correct one, I take the liberty of applying to you for a decision in reply to the question set forth in the opening paragraph of this letter.

In reply to this communication I said: "That it is not the province of the Grand Commander to pass an opinion upon the action of the Grand Commandery. It is for him to decide questions which have not had the action or vote of the grand body, and his opinion holds good

only until the grand body can and does pass upon it. When such action has been taken it is final, and the Grand Commander has not the right to act upon it again." It is the view of past commanders, and myself, that the subject matter of your letter is for the Grand Commandery to declare."

I referred him to the decisions of the Grand Commandery, which he quoted in his letter, stating that a complete copy could be found in the hands of the Grand Recorder, placed there for the inspection of Eminent Commanders.

RECOMMENDATION.

He recommends that the several commanderies from his jurisdiction attending the triennial should unite and be known as the Massachusetts and Rhode Island battalion.

MEMORIAL.

The committee on memorial, referring to the death of Sir WILLIAM SEWELL GARDNER, after going thoroughly into his masonic, public and private life, say:

It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the many and great services he gave in the cause of freemasonry. The printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Commandery, and the Grand Encampment, furnish abundant evidence of his efficient work, and illustrate, in a marked degree, the noble qualities of his head and heart. Whatever position of trust he filled, to whatever post of honor he was called, or office of difficulty or responsibility he assumed, courage, ability and fidelity stamped all he did. He regarded masonic office as an important trust in the execution of which the utmost fidelity was to be observed, and did not consider himself discharged from responsibility until that measure of faithfulness had been fully exercised.

As a gentleman of fine culture and presence, as a private citizen of broad and liberal views, as a jurist of eminent ability, his was a model character and worthy of emulation. He possessed sterling qualities which won admiration and respect. All will bear loving testimony to the gentle amenities which characterized him, as developed in his intercourse with his brethren. Strong as were his convictions, and firm as he was of purpose, he never gave offense to those with whom he differed. Genial and kindly in disposition, pure in character, none ever presumed to question his integrity. He hated devious and crooked ways, and loved direct and ingenuous dealing in all affairs of life. Possessing real virtues, he had no occasion to affect or parade pretended ones. He was the charm of the social circle, and was welcomed at every feast.

But our brother has gone from us. He has given his honors to the world again, and sleeps in peace. He has left us to chase for a little while longer the shadows which he has exchanged for sublime realities; and we as masons, for all the interchange of kindness, for all the cordial intercourse of private life, for all the acts of co-operation in behalf of our ancient institution, offer to his memory the loving tribute of respect and esteem. Bronze and marble statutes may be reared to the memory of noble lives like his, but no monument can be erected by the hand of art so grateful to the memory of his real worth, as that which his deeds and kindly words have enshrined in the affections and engraved upon the hearts of his fraters.

“Such lives breathe fragrance like the rose,
And when their petals fall to earth,
Spread forth the germs of the new birth,
World-wide, on every breeze that blows.”

If death were the end of all, indeed our grief would be inconsolable; but the creed of the heathen has yielded to one higher and holier. We rejoice in the belief, and have a thorough conception of its truth, that the stone shall at length be rolled from the door of the sepulchre, and its portals be no more sealed; that the lost shall be regained, and the separated forever reunited.

BANNER FOR THE GRAND COMMANDERY.

The committee appointed to procure a suitable banner for the Grand Commandery fulfilled that duty, and Sir GEORGE H. ALLEN presented the same to the Grand Commandery in the following well chosen remarks:

And now, Very Eminent and Sir Knights, I would ask your indulgence in that I may personally assume Sir Knight SAVORY's bill, and if you will permit me to have the pleasure, and I do assure you that it gives me great pleasure to present to this grand body this banner. Not for its intrinsic value, but as a slight token of my love for this honored institution, and the esteem and high appreciation of the good fellows, the Sir Knights, who compose this grand body.

And, Sir Knights, as you look upon its emblazoned folds, may you be reminded of those valiant knights of old, whose matchless valor has shed undying lustre on the name of Knights Templar, and may it stimulate us all to deeds of more exalted usefulness, that our beloved order may have honor and glory.

The banner was gratefully accepted, and the thanks of

the Grand Commandery given to Sir ALLEN for his princely gift.

UNIFORM.

A long and interesting report was made by the committee on uniform, who, in concluding their report, say:

1. They are of opinion that in all matters of general and federal concern, Grand Encampment is the governing body, and in those relations is entitled to the allegiance and loyal support of Grand Commandries.
2. They are of opinion that all matters of membership, nomenclature, costume, tactics, ritual, and all affairs of local administration, are inherently within the province and authority of the respective Grand Commanderies, they having the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of the subordinates within the territory belonging to the Grand Commanderies.
3. That the permanent peace and harmony of templar masonry, and the usefulness of the order, depend upon the lawful exercise of the powers and duties appertaining to these grand bodies within their respective jurisdictions, and under their defined limitations as above set forth.

ANNUAL CONCLAVE.

The eighty-second annual conclave was held in the city of Boston, October 26, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir GEORGE H. ALLEN, Grand Commander.

Sir ALFRED F. CHAPMAN, Grand Recorder.

Thirty-nine subordinate commanderies represented.
Eleven Past Grand Commanders present.

THE RITUAL.

The committee on ritual made a report and asked for further time.

Perhaps they had better postpone their report until after the "ritual jubilee," to be held in Washington, next fall.

WILL FORM A BATTALION.

The committee on triennial reported that the Sir Knights will form into a battalion, as recommended by the Grand Commander, and that headquarters will be at the Riggs House.

THE WORK TO BE PERFORMED.

Of the work to be performed at the triennial the Grand Commander says:

An able committee was appointed at the last annual conclave to consider the apparent defects in the new ritual, and point out such additional imperfections as were developed in the use of it. I would suggest that a special committee, outside the grand council, be appointed to take up the recommendations in their report, and present them at the approaching triennial.

I am led to make this suggestion because our very distinguished Past Grand Commander, BENJAMIN DEAN, when Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, furnished the foundation for this new ritual. And it would seem eminently fitting, in view of the undoubted review of the whole matter, the probable legislation on this subject and kindred matters, the disturbed feeling relative to the promulgation of the ritual, and the not unlikely consideration of the relation of the grand bodies to the Grand Encampment, that this grand body should be represented by a special committee, composed of our best talent and ability, upon the floor of the grand asylum.

It is very probable that subjects of greater importance than ever came before the Grand Encampment may be presented, and our grand body, which was the originator of this Grand Encampment, should be represented by a committee having these matters particularly in charge.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The report on correspondence is signed by the committee in full—CHAPMAN, RUGG and DADMUN. What a galaxy of names!

Sir CHAPMAN travels (alphabetically) up to and including Kentucky, and after a thorough review of that jurisdiction, says:

In presenting so much of this report as brings us to this point, we refer to our remarks of last year as to the general tone and character of the printed proceedings, and the excellent manner of their preparation by the several Grand Recorders. The printing in all cases is good; so is the quality of paper; and if our conclusions are correct, the prices paid for the work are considerate and favorable to the jurisdictions concerned. Correspondingly, we feel gratified at the favor with which the proceedings of Massachusetts and Rhode Island are received, and the entire absence of any show of ill-nature or serious dissatisfaction with

our forms and practice. Some proper criticism there is, but even this may fairly be called at the minimum; and yet it is good that we sometimes "see ourselves as others see us."

We have considered the will and the patience of the Grand Commandery more than our own inclination, and have been brief where our neighbors might fairly have expected more from us; but no intended slight lurks between the lines, or lack of appreciation moves us. As applied to officers, we have rarely used the titles appropriate to their rank, especially as prefixes, but as Grand Commanders are constitutionally entitled to be called Right Eminent, our omission neither detracts from their dignity, nor signifies lack of respect for the honors of office.

We have not entered overmuch into the discussion of debatable questions, but have quoted somewhat freely concerning the "ritual." This being a common possession, it seems that each should know the other's manner of treating it.

Suspension for non-payment of dues has received attention in different jurisdictions. The non-affiliate does not seem to be in favor anywhere, though he is regarded with different degrees of toleration. When wilfully non-affiliated, he receives no compliments, but when so of necessity he has consideration.

An expelled mason, if a Knight Templar also, restored to good masonic standing by his lodge, is a character of unfixed membership in his commandery, and the status of such a one has been discussed.

It is held by some that restoration in the lodge restores to membership in the commandery, provided the latter has not of itself taken disciplinary action. To this we demur, on the ground that having lost by constitutional process all masonic rights and privileges, he has no longer any claim to honors or preferment grounded upon these. Having been an expelled mason, he could not be a Knight Templar because of such expulsion, and restoration by the lodge could only cover lodge limitations, therefore his restoration to membership in the commandery must depend upon its will.

Tactics and drill, as well as uniform, are subjects of attention by all Grand Commanderies, but we forego discussion on these topics, considering them of local more than of general concern.

To our fellow correspondents we owe thanks for their favorable comments, holding in due appreciation their exceedingly good work. Here we lay down the pen after giving a courteous hail and salute to our fellows.

MICHIGAN.

Sir RUGG plods his way from Louisiana up to and including the "Empire State." Under that arrangement

Michigan comes under his courteous review. He speaks kindly of us in every respect; alludes to the speech delivered by "Our HUGH," and of the greeting accorded him.

He quotes the following from our last report:

The disposition of that matter *makes us* believe that the Grand Encampment of the United States itself believes that the powers delegated to it are not as extensive as was once supposed to be by that body. What say you, Sir RUGG?

And says:

Our hope is that the Grand Encampment is coming to take this view, and that it will be disposed to respect "State rights" in many things belonging to the administration of templarism. Of course the Grand Encampment exercises absolute, unrestricted authority over the subordinate commanderies directly allegiant to it; but the relation of the Grand Encampment to Grand Commanderies is, and of right ought to be, somewhat different. These last named bodies have a sovereignty of their own—certain reserved rights never delegated to the Grand Encampment—and this sovereignty must be taken into account in any attempt to define the relations existing between the Grand Encampment and the Grand Commanderies respectively allegiant thereto.

And to which we respond with a loud amen.

MISSOURI.

Under Missouri, speaking of granting dispensations for the establishment of weak bodies, he says:

In almost every grand jurisdiction there are more commanderies than the general good demands. Dispensations are granted for new bodies, and charters voted, perhaps, to accommodate a few knights, sometimes to gratify mere personal feeling, and not much thought is exercised as to what the result will be after a few years have elapsed, when the momentary interest or excitement has died away. It is within the province of a Grand Commander to look the whole field over, see that the rights of all parties at interest be taken into account and properly guarded, and that any action taken shall give promise of promoting the welfare of the whole body and strengthening the institution.

TAKING AWAY THEIR JOB.

He thinks that it would have done no harm to continue the committee on ritual, whose examination of the new

work might have been helpful in the way of explanation, and possibly in suggesting some needed corrections.

All very well, Sir RUGG, but that would be "kinder" taking away the job from CARSON, SPEED, VARNUM, and all those other fellows that have chips on their shoulders.

LOYAL TO THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

He quotes what Sir MAYO says relative to the loyalty of Missouri, and the disaffected and disgruntled fraters of Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Iowa, Maryland, and other States, and says:

The knights of Massachusetts and Rhode Island realize their inheritance in all that makes the power and true glory of the Grand Encampment of the United States. They appreciate its rightful place of authority in the administration of templar affairs, and intend to be heartily loyal to the general grand body. They are not "disaffected" or "disgruntled," except that they desire to have the rule of the Grand Encampment defined according to the law and the constitution, and in accord with what was the original purpose of those who established the central organization. They do believe that some matters of law and administration belong of right to Grand Commanderies, and that care is needed to mark out and adjust the relations, leaving to each its proper province. If we are disaffected and disgruntled, Sir MAYO, because we want some things, that we think are a little wrong, set right, why we must rest under the imputation as best we may. But we purpose to be loyal to the Grand Encampment, however we criticise some of its acts, and challenge some of its assumptions of power.

Yes, we "kinder" feel that way ourselves; but with all due respect, we can see no good of the concern. Year by year satisfies us that the "critter" can be got along without —yet we are loyal because it is "thar."

MISSISSIPPI.

Under Mississippi, and what Sir DE LAP says of the triennial, he thus comments:

Evidently Sir DELAP sees only the darker side. His charges are altogether too sweeping. We have known of instances where no liquors were furnished by Grand Commanderies at the headquarters of such bodies on triennial occasions. The majority of the representatives

gathered at triennial conclaves are temperate, virtuous men, who estimate the order according to its declared principles and teachings. This, at least, is our judgment, based on what we have seen and heard. WENDELL PHILLIPS held that it was needful sometimes to exaggerate in order to make an impression and promote a work of reform; perhaps the earnest, vigorous words of Sir DELAP, albeit he paints the picture somewhat too darkly, will have a wholesome effect, and tend to elevate the moral standard of the templar organization. There is need enough of resisting the tide of intemperance and licentiousness, which threatens destruction to all that is fairest and best. We think the Grand Encampment has some practical utility, and may be so governed and directed as to become more useful. To this end, we agree with the suggestions of the Mississippi reporter, that there ought to be less of parades and festivities than now characterize the triennial meetings; that more attention ought to be given to the business, and that the best men in morals and character should be selected for legislators in the highest templar body.

CONCLUSION.

We give Sir Ruggs' conclusion of his part of the report as follows:

It will be noticed that the report on correspondence of this jurisdiction is prepared by a committee of three, each doing his part in reviewing a certain number of Grand Commanderies, and presenting his own opinion. Possibly under such an arrangement, where there has been no special comparison of views by members of the committee, there may be some slight differences in the views expressed. In the main, however, we sure Sirs CHAPMAN and DADMUN will agree with us, as we shall with them.

In closing our part of this report, we are moved to add a single paragraph bearing upon the purposes and ministries of the templar organization. It is not an institution, as we regard it, which stands chiefly for social fellowship, or for the ends of military drill and display. It is not intended to represent and enforce religious dogmas, or inculcate a system of theology; but it does stand for vital, practical Christianity, and is false to its name and traditions if it does not illustrate and enforce the moral and Christian virtues. Templary must be judged by its works. Let these testify that its members have the mind of CHRIST, and that they are moved and blessed by love and loyalty to Him—the Way and the Truth and the Life.

VALUABLE INFORMATION.

And now comes Sir J. W. D., which being interpreted

means Sir JOHN W. DADMUN—great, big, whole-souled Sir Knight. He travels from North Carolina to Wyoming, and that he gains much valuable information as he goes along through his journey is shown by the many extracts we make from his report.

OHIO.

Under Ohio, he says:

Under the head of new ritual, he reported that he ordered the "old rituals" to be called in as soon as the new were distributed, and that the "old should be destroyed by fire in the presence of witnesses," which was done, and attested under seal of the Grand Commandery of Ohio. That strikes us as a very singular procedure. By what right does a Grand Commander destroy the property of his Grand Commandery? It may be one of his prerogatives. If so, it is something new to us.

But when the R. E. Grand Commander comes to apply the new law of the Grand Encampment—as to the effect of an objection to the advancement of a Red Cross Knight—to Ohio, he strikes a snag which brings him up suddenly, on this wise:

"It would seem that if there is anything in the world in which the Grand Encampment excels, it is their ability to make laws with contradictory provisions, or those impossible to be carried out under ordinary circumstances, and I would modestly suggest a recommendation to the M. E. Grand Master, that steps be taken to revise the entire code by a committee of practical working Knights Templar, to report for action thereon at the next triennial conclave."

That we will endorse, provided Ohio will add, and that the Grand Encampment cease to interfere with local States rights.

We notice that all the "old rituals" were not burned. The Eminent Commander of Cyprus commandery, No. 10, whose charter had been suspended, refused to surrender the "rituals of the orders," which goes to show the folly of distributing rituals, especially the esoteric work, as it has been done in Ohio in times past, and recently by the Grand Encampment. It is exceedingly distasteful to the templars of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

In our jurisdiction there has been no printed secret work in lodge, chapter or commandery, and no authorized manuscripts of the work, except such as have been carefully and securely kept in the archives. We regard the printing and distribution of the esoteric work of templar masonry as a direct violation of the S. O., as heretofore administered in this jurisdiction. This subject, then, becomes a personal matter, and involves personal rights which "no man, or body of men," has a right

to innovate; no grand body can absolve a templar from his obligations. When we first heard that the Grand Encampment had printed the esoteric work for general distribution in subordinate commanderies, we were astounded, and felt it was on a par with printing an exposé of templar masonry and placing it in the public libraries of the country. The new rituals go into the pockets of officers who wish to consult them, and are liable to be lost, and to go into the hands of the profane. But more anon.

MORE RITUAL TALK.

He quotes the following from the report of Sir CARSON:

"A ritual having been adopted by the Grand Encampment, one might reasonably hope that the subject was finally disposed of, to the great relief and satisfaction of all. It appears, however, that there are a few disgruntled soreheads scattered through the Grand Commanderies who are not satisfied. No two of them can agree as to just what it is they object to. Some find fault because a word or phrase has been left out, as they contend, others because a word or phrase has been added, as they think, all of which is hypercritical."

And says:

At the risk of getting what we have not got—a "sorehead"—we will ask one or two questions. How did it happen (or was it intended?) that the committee on rituals made such a radical change as to leave out the last clause of the old S. O., the very clause that gives it the peculiar force of the S. O., as it covers all the preceding degrees, etc., and sets forth the *unity* of symbolic, capitular and templar masonry?

Another question, in close connection with the preceding—who is responsible for the substitution of the clause, "fate of the Apostle JUDAS ISCARIOT?" These, with others we might name, are "material."

Sir CARSON tells us, in his review of Texas, that the committee were "absolutely limited to the manuscript" committed to them, and that there is no "material difference." The dramatizing of the work—and that is all the committee had a right to do, if they were "absolutely limited to the manuscript"—is a perfect failure. The construction of the language, in many places, is so careless and cumbersome that it destroys dramatic unity. Evidently the work was done in a hurry and by piecemeal. It lacks elegance of diction and logical clearness. Whole pages need to be rewritten, and numberless historical, philological and grammatical errors eliminated. Instead of "no two agreeing" on this subject, Massachusetts and Rhode Island may be said to be a unit. We have yet to find the first templar who is satisfied with it. "Mate-

rially different" from the manuscript—as we claim it is—it cannot be a legal document, if the committee were "absolutely limited."

We do not believe Sir CARSON is satisfied with it. In fact, he admits it "has defects," but thinks "it has come to stay." What! a defective ritual? And, as for any that may be dissatisfied with the Grand Encampment, he thinks the honors of office will make them "as gentle as sucking doves." This is the way he puts it to Sir ERCANBRACK: "If you had been in St. Louis (perhaps you were there), you would have observed that New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Iowa, Maryland and Michigan were as gentle as sucking doves. Three of these States were honored with offices in the Grand Encampment." A similar thrust is made at Pennsylvania. "The very ably prepared report (on relations between Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment) fell dead—dead as herrings red—while the Grand Encampment goes marching on, Pennsylvania joining in triumphal procession, *and walking off with the second highest office in the Grand Encampment.*" (Italics ours.) Are we to be bought and sold with "honors of office?"

Honors are easy, and easily bestowed under some circumstances; but how about the circumstances? That's the practical question. For many years serious difficulties have arisen between the Grand Encampment and its constituent Grand Commanderies. The opposition produced by an attempt to dictate what uniform should be worn, for a time threatened the very existence of the general grand body. A compromise quieted the troubled waters, and now the right is conceded to the States, where it always belonged.

Other interferences with local self-government are still disturbing the peace and harmony of the order, and disorder will not down until the States secure their rights. Laws are made by the Grand Encampment that interfere with long established masonic law and usage. We have already referred to the perplexity of the Grand Commander of Ohio on this subject, which leads him to call for a committee of "practical working Knights Templar to revise the entire code of templar laws." Two decisions of Grand Commanders of our own jurisdiction now stand on record, which are in conflict with the "statutes;" for very good reasons, too.

Take as a specimen of absurd and conflicting legislation the following from the "code of statutes: "Those who receive the Order of the Temple are, *ipso facto*, members thereof (commandery), whether such commandery be chartered or under dispensation." Under that law what becomes of the Order of Malta? Is it of no consequence? It often happens that that order cannot be conferred simultaneously with the Order of the Temple. But the candidate becomes a member with-

out it, and as such is entitled to all membership rights—may take his seat in the asylum, vote on all questions, see the order conferred on others without taking it himself. Our law is: "A candidate must take the Order of Malta before he is entitled to sign the by-laws, be admitted to membership, or vote." Which has masonic usage and common sense on its side?

Finally, we take the position that no change should ever be made in the organic law of templary without the consent of two-thirds of the constituent Grand Commanderies. They are not subordinates. The Grand Encampment is not only usurping authority heretofore exercised by the States, but interfering with the government of their subordinates, to both of which we decidedly object. The ritual, as dramatized, ostensibly by a committee of five, was adopted by a minority of one-fifth of the representatives, thirty-five of the subordinates of the Grand Encampment being entitled to vote thereon.

Nine makes a quorum (the ritual says seven, which looks as though the one-fifth went it blind), and when the grand conclave is once opened a "a less number" than even nine may make laws and adopt or alter rituals. Claiming to be the general governing body of thirty-six State Grand Commanderies, and 75,000 Knights Templar—and in this nineteenth century, too—is it not humiliating that a "less number than nine members" may pass an edict or resolution which will be binding upon every one of them; and for the disobedience of which any of its constituents or subordinates may be disfranchised and deprived of all templar rights.

In 1884, two forms of a ritual of the Order of Malta were sent to Massachusetts and Rhode Island, with an order to adopt one of them. The "short ceremony"—a puerile thing, but less objectionable than the long one—was slightly modified and adopted, and then placed in the custody of the Grand Recorder for safe keeping, according to our usual custom.

In 1887 printed rituals of the secret work of the Red Cross and Temple were forwarded with instructions to distribute them to the subordinates of our Grand Commandery, thereby taking away every right heretofore exercised to securely guard, in our own way, the secrets of templary. The whole thing is a gross infringement of templar State rights. The Grand Encampment has no more right, in our opinion, to prescribe a ritual than a uniform. There are more vital interests to Grand Commanderies in the former than in the latter.

NOT THE REASON.

We want to whisper in your ear, Sir DADMUN that

although Michigan may have appeared, in your eyes, as "gentle as a sucking dove," it was not for the reason you give. The writer was not there, and he has been glad many and many a time that he was not, for once in a while he talks in meeting.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir EDWARD L. FREEMAN, Central Falls, R. I., elected Grand Commander.

Sir ALFRED F. CHAPMAN, Boston, Mass., re-elected Grand Recorder.

MINNESOTA.

TWENTY-THIRD annual conclave was held in the city of Duluth, commencing June 25, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir THOMAS MONTGOMERY, Grand Commander.

Sir A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Recorder.

Eighteen subordinate commanderies represented. Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

SENT REGRETS.

Sir PHILO P. HUBBELL, aged eighty-eight years, sent his regrets, that in consequence of sickness, he would be unable to attend this conclave, and fill his position as Grand Prelate. The dear old man; certainly he ought to be excused, at his time of life, from active service of any kind.

RECEPTION.

E. C. HUGO announced that a reception in honor of the Grand Commandery and visiting Sir Knights was to be held at the St. Louis hotel, to be followed by music, dancing and a banquet, and that the ladies of Duluth were anxious for an early attendance of Sir Knights, whereupon, on

motion, the Grand Commandery was called off until 10 o'clock A. M.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

In opening his address the Grand Commander says:

We separated a year ago at Lake City, on the father of rivers, to meet to-day, on the invitation of our then youngest chartered commandery, at the head of the mother of lakes, in the zenith city of the unsalted seas. In October, 1865, when our Grand Commandery was organized, and for many years after, Duluth was an obscure village, comparatively unknown. Now it is a prosperous and far-famed commercial city of 30,000 inhabitants, an illustration of the marvelous growth of many portions of the northwest.

It was chosen last year out of the four competing cities as the seat of our present session because, among other reasons, it was said to be the coolest place in midsummer. In view of the comfortable temperature to-day, when usually the heat is so oppressive at our meetings, and of the cordial welcome extended to us by our fraters and the other citizens of Duluth, I congratulate the Grand Commandery on the wisdom of the selection made, and take great pleasure in extending to its officers and members thus pleasantly assembled in twenty-third annual conclave my heartiest personal and official greeting.

You have come to this gate city of our northeast from templar homes hundreds of miles apart—from Winona, the gate city of the southeast, two hundred and fifty miles distant; from Redwood Falls, an equal distance to the southwest; from Morris and Fergus Falls, two hundred miles to the west, and from Crookston, three hundred miles to the northwest, no commandery, save one, being less than one hundred and fifty miles distant—all thus attesting your interest in and devotion to our noble order and animated, as I believe all are, with a sincere desire to carefully consider and promote the highest interests of templar masonry in this extensive jurisdiction. Doubtless we have all been impressed during our travels with the extent and grandeur of our magnificent north star State, and of the possibilities that the future is sure to unfold. What that future will disclose to us as an order may only be imagined, but I firmly believe that most of us will live to see, instead of twenty commanderies and 1,600 members, as at present, perhaps double that number of commanderies and three times as many valiant and magnanimous Knights Templar composing the same.

NOT ALLOWABLE.

The Grand Commander ruled that it was unknightly

for any member of the order to appear in public either singly or in procession, with another uniformed order not masonic, wearing the uniform of a Knight Templar, or any part thereof, or to loan any part of the uniform to be worn by others. And his ruling was fully approved by the committee on jurisprudence to whom that part of his address was referred.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

He notices in his address the fact that he recommended E. Sir W. H. SANBORN for appointment as representative of the Grand Commandery of Michigan near his Grand Commandery, and the fact that the practice in our State did not recognize an interchange of representatives.

FINANCES.

The Grand Commander notices a marked change for the better in the finances of the Grand Commandery, and, while speaking on that subject, says:

I was hoping to figure out our ability hereafter to pay actual expenses of Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, and one representative from each subordinate commandery, as is done by most of our sister jurisdictions. I find that the Grand Chapter of Minnesota paid mileage and per diem when even weaker than we now are. If our conclaves were held at some central point, as St. Paul or Minneapolis, I estimate that \$120 would pay railroad fare at usual reduced rates, and \$120 more the usual per diem for one day. I commend the whole subject to the consideration of the committee on finance.

The finance committee, to whom that part of his address was referred, recommended that action be deferred one year.

EDICT OF GRAND MASTER.

Of the edict of the Grand Master, he says:

Within the past week there was officially certified to me by Sir Wm. ISAACS, Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of the United States, an edict of the Grand Master, M. E. Sir CHARLES ROOME, interdicting all templar intercourse between the Grand Commandery of Iowa and all Sir Knights in its obedience and the *loyal* Knights Templar of the United States, and directing the promulgation of said order throughout this grand jurisdiction.

Regretting the necessity that exists for withholding all templar intercourse from the fraters of an adjoining jurisdiction, I nevertheless, in obedience to the spirit of the aforesaid edict, issued an order for its promulgation, and directed the Grand Recorder to have said order printed in circular form, together with said edict, and an attested copy thereof transmitted without delay to each member of this Grand Commandery and to the Eminent Commander of each subordinate commandery in this grand jurisdiction. This direction was promptly complied with and the order as promulgated is appended to this report.

That the present authorized ritual contains numerous inaccuracies, omissions and incongruities may be true, but there is a constitutional way of amending it, and until so amended or revised we, as loyal Knights Templar, must be true to our vows of allegiance to the constitution, rules and edicts of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir PIERSON writes the report on correspondence, which is a fraternal review of thirty-three sister Grand Commanderies. He changes the alphabetical order of review, and notices the proceedings according to the date of holding their annual conclave, which, according to his "geography," puts Texas to the front.

We are of the opinion that his plan has much in it to commend.

IOWA.

Under Iowa, he says of the ritual and the stand taken on that question by the Sir Knights of that jurisdiction:

We do not think his position is tenable, for the reason that *no ritual had been heretofore adopted*, hence section 67 had no bearing upon the question, as there was no proposed *change*, which required notice, etc. It was new matter so far as that section was concerned.

Unquestionably the Grand Encampment had the right to adopt a ritual, and to require each Grand Commandery to subscribe to it. Because it had never done so, did not abrogate its authority in the premises.

If the system is military, as many contend, then each body created by, or holding allegiance to, is bound to obey its edicts unquestioned, even if we individually believe them to be wrong. There is a time and place to correct errors, if errors there be.

The most prominent argument used against the continued existence.

of the Grand Encampment has been that it failed to promulgate a ritual. Now that it has done so, we find the same parties denouncing its action. Why? Because the ritual adopted conflicts somewhat with their preconceived notions. Consistency is said to be a jewel.

Masons of all grades appear to think, and are apt to act, upon the proposition that the ritual in use in their original body is the only, and genuine work, and having become proficient in it, are loth to the use of any other, forgetting that while the *essentials* are the same everywhere, phraseology does and may differ, without any disparagement of the system. So, too, of the templars.

The ritual heretofore in use in Minnesota was copied from a work purporting to have been written in 1804, and is identical, except in a few phrases, with that which is known as the old *Lowell work*. Of course, it having been adopted by the Grand Commandery at its organization, we are wedded to it, believing it to be the oldest, best and most consistent system; yet, holding allegiance to the Grand Encampment as the parent body, and recognizing its right to promulgate a ritual, and for the purpose of uniformity, and remembering our vows, we believe that we are bound to conform to it, whatever we individually may conceive to be its imperfections, trusting and hoping that at the proper time and place, viz., at the session of the Grand Encampment, the supposed imperfections may be eradicated, at which time we will be found an advocate. In the meantime, "obey orders, if you break owners."

One further matter and we leave the subject. Exception is taken relative to the vote upon the adoption of the ritual, that the matter came up near the close of the session, when there were but few present. Whose fault was that? It was known that the committee appointed three years previous was to report. It was an important matter, and the delegates should have remained and done the business for which they were sent to do, and it is at least in very bad taste to find fault with those who remained and attended to their duties. We were not present at the close; had we been there we would probably have voted against the adoption, but it was our own fault, and we feel bound by the majority of those that did remain.

He strongly combats the weak point of Iowa's fault-finding relative to the vote being taken upon the adoption of the ritual near the close of the session, when but few were present, and says, "Whose fault was it?" We ask again, whose fault was it? That is the lamest excuse that Iowa offers. Members of the Grand Encampment were supposed to be in attendance for business, not pleasure.

OHIO.

Under Ohio he says:

A large part of the address of the Grand Commander was devoted to the troubles brought about by the so-called CERNEAU adherents, and a large portion of the time of the Grand Commandery was occupied in connection with the same matters.

We use the term "so-called CERNEAU" because in reality there is not, nor can there be, any CERNEAU body. Whatever there was of it was wiped out—ceased to exist—in 1866. In that year there was a union of all the masons of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the northern jurisdiction. The two councils united, and a reorganization was unanimously and harmoniously effected, the officers being elected alternately from each of the old bodies, under the title of the "Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction," and so remained working in harmony for fifteen years, when two of the old CERNEAU body—who had not been elected to any office—seceded and put forth a claim to resuscitation of the CERNEAU body. It is difficult to conceive how such an audacious, preposterous and bare-faced claim could be made by men of even ordinary intelligence, to say nothing of honesty. Hence our use of the term "so-called." It could not be resuscitated; it is simply a bogus claim to entrap the ignorant and unwary.

The Grand Commandery, acting within its sphere, denounced as a clandestine body, having no claims as masonic, this late organization, and declared it a punishable offense for any of its members to connect themselves with it, or to recognize any templars from anywhere that did so, yet in defiance of the Grand Commandery several members of two or three of the commanderies affiliated. The Grand Commandery, in defense of its own dignity, promptly disciplined the offending parties by arrest of charter, expulsion, etc.

Don't get excited, Sir PIERSON; we have trouble enough of our own without interfering with those fellows.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan for 1888 is courteously reviewed.

We would have quoted more of Sir PIERSON'S "say so," but, as he says, he "had got to the length of the tether, and no room for extracts." Now, Sir PIERSON, in your next report give no less "tether" and more "extracts."

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOHN A. SCHLENER, Minneapolis, elected Grand Commander.

Sir A. T. C. PIERSON, re-elected Grand Recorder.

MISSISSIPPI.

TWENTY-NINTH annual conclave was held in the city of Meridian, commencing February 12, A. D. 1889, A. O. 771.

[N. B. This is the home of SPEED and DE LAP; take notice and govern yourselves accordingly, for woe to the man, be he templar or otherwise, that knocks the chips off their shoulders.]

Sir FREDERIC SPEED, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN L. POWER, Grand Recorder.

Seven subordinate commanderies represented. Five Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander opens his address as follows:

At your last annual conclave, the question of the time and place of holding this conclave was referred for determination to the commanderies, to be voted upon before September 1. If a majority should be in favor of meeting at a different time and place from the other grand bodies, then the conclave was to be held at Vicksburg in April, "all failing to vote to be counted in the affirmative." The proceedings not having been distributed until after most of the commanderies had ceased work for the summer months, but four considered the question, two voting affirmatively and the other two voting negatively. Correspondence developing the fact that it was the wish of the majority of representatives that the conclave should be held at this time and place, I directed the Grand Recorder to give notice accordingly, notwithstanding the fact that my own preference was for "disconnecting" the meeting. I do not believe that it is possible for us to secure that degree of attention to

business which the interests of the order demand, while the time and attention of the members is diverted by the duties devolving upon us as members of the other two bodies, more especially as many of us are then occupied as officers, or engaged upon important committee work, which, if faithfully performed, leaves little or no time for other engagements. Under such circumstances, the commandery is subordinated and overshadowed, and its work at best imperfectly performed. The constitution requires that "the stated meetings of this Grand Commandery shall be held annually at such time and place as each grand conclave may determine, and special meetings may be called by the Grand Commander, at his discretion." The officers are to be elected at the annual conclave, reports received and much matter disposed of which cannot be considered at a special conclave, and it is therefore necessary that you should first consider and determine the question as to whether we are now assembled in annual conclave, or in a special conclave summoned by the Grand Commander. It is not my province to decide whether a resolution which, by its express terms, determined where and when the conclave should be held, was not adopted because the commanderies, through misapprehension or neglect, gave it operative effect by failing to vote upon the question submitted for their determination. It might be that even a majority did not vote because all failing to vote "were to be counted as voting in the affirmative," and if so I would be exercising a veto power, which is not vested in the Grand Commander. Unfortunately there is no provision in our constitution, or that of the Grand Encampment, determining when the annual conclave is to be held, in the event that a time and place is not fixed at the preceding conclave.

If you should be of the opinion that this is not the annual conclave, I conceive that it is competent for you to now proceed and fix the time and place of the next annual conclave, because this is certainly a "grand conclave" within the letter, though perhaps not the spirit of the constitution, although it may possibly not be "the annual grand conclave," owing to defective legislation, or, perhaps, I ought to say, improvident legislation, for the intent and meaning of the resolution are clear enough even for the most defective understanding. It will be observed that the wording of the constitution is that the time and place of "stated meetings" is to be fixed "as each grand conclave shall determine." I presume that this was intended to mean the annual grand conclave, but if we become too technical in our construction, I do not see how we are to avoid adjourning to meet in Vicksburg on the fourth Wednesday in April next.

THE RITUAL.

Sir SPEED gives in full the edict of the Grand Master, relative to the ritual, and says, considering it an absolute nullity, he declined to promulgate it within his jurisdiction, and at once entered his solemn protest against the usurpation by the Grand Master of powers not vested in him by the constitution of the Grand Encampment. He then gives in full his correspondence with the Grand Master, and winds up with the following, which we give in full, as it appears to be a complete digest of the entire ritual question:

As you are well aware, the question of ritual has not troubled us to any marked extent in this jurisdiction, and if the controversy which has grown out of the pretended adoption of rituals of the Red Cross and Templar Orders at St. Louis, were confined to a mere choice between one form of words and another, it would not have enlisted us upon either side. Not that we are indifferent to the numerous defects of the new ritual, but simply because no masonic principle having been invaded we were willing to yield our preferences to any lawful expression of the wishes of the majority. It will be recollected that we took the new rituals as a venture of faith, and enjoined their use in this jurisdiction before one of us had read the completed work in print. Perhaps if we had then known how incomparably inferior they are to the ritual which Past Grand Commander HILLYER received from Grand Master HUBBARD, and which is sometimes spoken of as the "STEVENS work," because it was used by R. E. Sir STEVENS when he was Grand Commander, and which he exemplified so grandly when presiding Commander of Magnolia commandery, we, too, would have rebelled against their use, but having placed ourselves uncontestedly right upon the record as "truly loyal" to the Grand Encampment—if blind submission means loyalty—by using the new ritual, it would seem as if we might have been spared the hue and cry which went up in certain quarters, immediately upon the appearance of my protest and letter, that "Mississippi had joined the Iowa rebels" in their alleged disloyalty to the Grand Encampment. The charge, of course, was simply ridiculous and is scarcely worthy of notice, but it is lamentable, nevertheless, that men who ought to have known better used it to prejudice the cause of Iowa before the masonic world. Like the cuttle-fish, which is said to emit a milky fluid to obscure its presence, these men seek to obscure the real issue by sounding a cry which is neither creditable to their intelligence or masonic integrity. It is not disloyal to resist usurpation or to

defend the fundamental law of the order from prostitution to an unworthy purpose; on the contrary, those who attack the law which they are obliged to obey and seek to impair its vitality, are the real traitors, guilty of "disloyalty and rebellion," and if any one is to have the most odious charge of treason made against them, they are the men. CICERO vindicated the truth and inculcated the value of the precept that nothing was truly useful which was not honest. It is not honest to misstate the opinions and actions of others, or to impute to them motives which their conduct does not warrant. If any useful purpose has been subserved by charging us with "disloyalty and rebellion" because forsooth we were seeking to support and maintain in all its integrity the constitution to which we are asserted to be disloyal, I fail to discover it.

The question of ritual sinks into insignificance before the real questions presented by this controversy. The Grand Master has assumed the prerogative of condemning, unheard and without a trial, three thousand and six hundred and one Knights Templar, but a small fraction of whom by any possibility could have been guilty of the odious offense with which he charges them, namely: "disloyalty and rebellion, contrary to their vows as Knights Templar and their promised allegiance to the constitution and regulations of the Grand Encampment of the United States," for they had no voice in the Grand Commandery, and were utterly powerless to prevent its taking the action which he condemns, and for which he has visited upon them the highest grade of punishment known to the masonic law—the interdiction of all intercourse between them and all loyal Knights Templar—virtual expulsion. Since the days when men crouched before imperial CÆSARS, a more flagrant act of wrong and injustice has not been perpetrated, and never before were honorable men accused of a high crime with less cause. It is incredible that any one who has the mental capacity to distinguish between right and wrong should justify so monstrous a wrong, upon so shallow a pretext as that the Iowa Knights Templar, who are not members of their Grand Commandery, were in any degree guilty of disregarding their obligations to the Grand Encampment; this, too, admitting, for the sake of the argument, the point that the rituals were constitutionally adopted.

The Grand Master seeks by his order and edict to coerce the Grand Commandery of Iowa into the adoption of the rituals. Where does he find a warrant for his action in the constitution of the Grand Encampment? It is claimed that it is found in section 13, where these words occur: "He shall have a watchful supervision over all commanderies, Grand and subordinate, in the United States, and see that all the constitutional enactments, statutes and edicts of the Grand Encampment are duly and promptly observed, and that the work and discipline of

templar masonry everywhere are uniform." " * * * Give such instruction or directions as the good of the order may require, always adhering to the constitution, statutes, and edicts of the Grand Encampment."

I lay it down as an incontrovertible proposition that the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar exists only by virtue of a written constitution and it possesses no powers not therein enumerated. Its officers are the creatures of that constitution, and have no traditional functions, prerogatives, or privileges.

When the Grand Encampment was organized in 1816 there were no State or Grand Encampments in the sense in which we now use the term. Seven encampments and one council formed a constitution, and under and by virtue of that constitution the Grand Commanderies have been formed. Before the creation of the Grand Encampment there was no written law of the order, but each organization was a law unto itself. What law they had they received, as they did their ritual, from WEBB, and added such rules as he gave them at their pleasure, each independent of the other.

The constitution of 1816 and the several amendments, giving us the instrument as we now have it, is unique in its conception, based upon a few fundamental principles characteristic of the order, and is more in the nature of the covenant of a league than a supreme law. It nowhere gives to the Grand Encampment, or any of its officers, powers of censure, discipline or admonition, and imposes no penalties for non-compliance therewith. It contains a vow of office for officers of the grand and subordinate commanderies, to support and maintain its provisions, similar to that taken by every Knight Templar upon his admission into the order.

There is no obligation upon any one to support and maintain an enactment of the Grand Encampment not passed in accordance with its constitution, and surely the duty of obedience to the Grand Master cannot stand upon higher ground than that of obedience to the Grand Encampment, which created him. It cannot be too emphatically stated, even at the expense of repetition, that outside of the constitution he has no powers; and nowhere in the constitution is there one word which, even by implication, confers upon him the power of censure or discipline. He may advise, and his advice, as the head of the order, should receive all that respectful consideration which is due to his exalted position. In so grave a matter as the suppression of a Grand Commandery he ought to be sustained by the clearest and most positive constitutional warrant, for it is not a matter which admits of the exercise of a doubtful prerogative or which should depend upon a doubtful construction. If

he may inflict penalties, then the constitution becomes a penal statute, and we invoke the rule of strict construction applicable to all penal statutes. The expression of one thing is the exclusion of another: the Grand Commander, by paragraph 5, section 37, "may suspend from the functions of his office any officer of the Grand or Subordinate Commandery, or arrest the charter or dispensation of a commandery, *but in neither case shall such suspension affect the standing in the order of such officer or his membership in the commandery.*" The power which the Grand Master seeks to exercise, so far as it exists at all, is vested elsewhere; having been given to the Grand Commander, it follows that the Grand Master is excluded from exercising it, unless it is to be found expressed in so many words in some other part of the constitution. It is not to be so found. The power does not exist and was not intended to exist. No sane man would be willing to trust any one man with the exercise of such autocratic powers as are necessarily involved in the suppression of a Grand Commandery. In a republican country like this it sounds like treason to our political institutions to hear such a dangerous heresy advocated, for it shows with what facility men holding such unstable opinions could convert a constitutional president into an absolute despot, without even suspecting that they were doing violence to the fundamental principles upon which our governments, State and national, rest. An edict which obliterates with one stroke of a pen the templar privileges of thirty-six hundred templars, is less merciful than the bull against heretics. *In cosna Domini*, which was formerly read at Rome on holy Thursday, for that included only those who were contumacious and disobedient to the Holy See, while the Grand Master hurls his decree of excommunication upon the devoted heads of all the Iowa templars, regardless of the fact that it is impossible for more than a very small number to be guilty of the offense he charges them with.

It is claimed that prior to 1886 there was no ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment, and that there was no necessity for giving notice of the motion to adopt a ritual in the summons, as required by section LXVII. of the constitution, because "it was no change in the ritual to adopt an entire new ritual," and yet with a total disregard of all consistency the argument is made that the word "work," in section XIII., means ritual. That this cannot be so I hope to show. It is a well recognized rule in the construction of statutes that every word has its meaning, and that the legislative body acted intelligently in choosing the language as well as in the purpose of the law, so that if possible the entire statute may stand as it came from the legislative hands. The word "work" cannot mean ritual if there was no ritual when this provision of the constitution was adopted, and it is a reflection upon the

intelligence of the Grand Encampment to say that upon two distinct occasions it made choice of a word prescribing the duties of its highest dignitary which it is claimed were at the time absolutely meaningless. There is a reasonable application of the word "work" as it occurs in section XIII., which may be adopted without doing violence to the usual rules of construction. The "work" of masonic bodies is not confined to ritualistic matters, as, for instance, the lodge is at "work" when transacting its ordinary business, in the burial of the dead, in laying foundation-stones, in dedicating a masonic hall, in installing its officers, and numerous other duties which are within its province. In the commandery there is no "work and lectures," but a ritual, and strictly speaking, we never refer to the ceremonial of admitting a candidate as the "work;" it is always spoken of the ritual. I find the word "work" employed a great number of times in the earlier proceedings of the Grand Encampment, but with scarcely an exception it refers to the proceedings, not ritual of subordinates, as "the work of Wisconsin Encampment." The "work" of a commandery had a fixed and specific meaning in the usage of the Grand Encampment long before 1856, when the section was inserted in the constitution; and having such a meaning, it is contrary to all precedent to give it a construction by which it ceases to have any meaning at all. It is not only "from the words of the law that there shall be no departure," but from the significance of the word itself there must be no departure, or else all laws would be constantly changing themselves as the original words change, and that, too, without any legislative act. The result is therefore irresistible that whatever else the Grand Master is required to supervise and require uniformity in, it could not be over something which did not exist, viz; a ritual.

It does not, however, follow that because the Grand Encampment had adopted no ritual, that there were none legally existing. Each Grand Commandery had the right to and did adopt its own ritual, just as we did years ago. There was, then, nothing in the constitution of the Grand Encampment giving it exclusive power to promulgate a ritual; on the contrary, the legal presumption is that it had no such power, because the seven encampments which organized the Grand Encampment, having already a ritual, did not in the original constitution confer upon the Grand Encampment the power to make a ritual. Even now that power is nowhere therein to be found, notwithstanding all its amendments, even by implication. There is, on the contrary, plainly manifested a reluctance to yield to the Grand Encampment control over the rituals, for in the proviso to section 67 of the constitution, rituals are placed upon the same high plane as the fundamental law itself, and it is forbidden to make any change in them, except it be done in the same

mode, and with the same precautions, as are required in making amendments to the constitution. This rule is imperative and any change not made in accordance therewith is just so much waste paper and worth no more. There have been many suggestions as to the inconvenience and even impracticability of amending the rituals if the requirements of section 67 must be complied with, but the reply is that we have nothing to do with convenience or inconvenience. The law says it shall not be done except in a certain way, points out the way, and if that way is an inconvenient or even impracticable one, the only thing to be done is to repeal the law itself, not to violate it or endeavor to force others to violate it.

It is asserted in the edict of the Grand Master that the rituals were "adopted and declared to be the only authorized rituals to be used in conferring the Orders of the Red Cross and Knights Templar within the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment," a question regarding which the Grand Master himself is said to have changed a previously expressed opinion, to the effect that the proposed changes in the ritual not having been inserted in the summons were not constitutionally adopted, but he added that as Grand Master he had no authority to set aside the acts of the Grand Encampment; that it alone could review its acts. Doubtless it is true that neither the Grand Master nor any one else can review an act of the Grand Encampment or set aside its action upon any question; but he seems to overlook the fact that there is incorporated in every masonic obligation, from the first to the last, the duty of supporting and maintaining the constitutions of masonry, and that to enforce an unconstitutional act is in itself a high masonic crime. To say that any one is bound to obey an unconstitutional law is a patent absurdity, which if adopted would be destructive of every constitutional compact. The constitution is the supreme law, and so far from its being the duty of the Grand Master to enforce obedience to an act not passed in accordance with its requirements, it is his duty, and that of every other Knight Templar, to strenuously resist it. The assertion by the British Parliament of an unqualified right of binding the colonies in all cases whatsoever in derogation of their chartered privileges, was one of the immediate causes of the American revolution. **GEORGE the III.** pronounced this treason, but the world and the result justified our forefathers in their resistance to tyranny, and no one to-day thinks of them as "disloyal and rebellious." The assertion by the Grand Master of the unqualified right to bid Knights Templar in all cases whatsoever in derogation of the constitution may not justify rebellion against the Grand Encampment, but it does disobedience to his void edict.

It is not true that the new rituals were ever "adopted and declared

to be the only authorized rituals" by the Grand Encampment. What the Grand Encampment did adopt, was the following:

Resolved, That we recommend that the ritual now submitted be the only authorized ritual of the illustrious orders of the Red Cross and Knights Templar, to be used in conferring these orders within the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. This order to take effect on and after the first day of April, 1887. Proceedings 1886, page 155.

The Grand Master was doubtless misled, as most of us were, by the reading of the resolution as it is printed on page 4 of the printed ritual, where it has been altered so as to read: "These are the only authorized rituals," etc. As deliberate and bare-faced a forgery of the record as ever was committed by felon. It is one thing to *recommend* that a thing be done, and quite another to enjoin it. The Grand Encampment might have *commanded* that these rituals be used, but not having done so, it was clearly not within the province of the Grand Master to do it; in fact he is expressly forbidden by section 38 of the statutes to "alter or abridge" the rituals. If, then, the resolution was a mere recommendation to use the rituals, and not mandatory, it is manifest that the Grand Commandery of Iowa did *not* "disregard and assume to suspend the operation of the action of the Grand Encampment." It is an absurdity to talk about suspending the operation of a recommendation to do or not to do an act. There are numerous instances of statutes which permit acts to be performed which otherwise would be unlawful, but doubtless this is the first instance on record where any one has been punished for a failure to avail themselves of such permission. It is claimed by some that the templar body is a military organization, and during the recess of the Grand Encampment the Grand Master is like the commanding general of an army, and may make such orders as he may deem expedient, but this is also an error, for the very good reason that the Knights Templar are not a military body. It has a semi-military drill, and here the military feature begins and ends; but even if it were a military organization, and subject to the articles of war, and the Grand Master was a general officer, he could not enforce obedience to an unlawful order, for by the thirty-fifth article of war not even a private soldier can be justified in obeying an unlawful order of his superior officer, nor will such an order protect him from any of the unlawful consequences which may follow its execution.

Another claim is made for the Grand Master, which is, that he is the executive head of the order, and that his edicts must be obeyed, and his errors can only be corrected by an appeal to the Grand Encampment itself, but this is equally untenable as the other positions. The

"executive powers of the United States" are vested by the constitution in the President, but from the foundation of the government, no one has claimed for the President that he could execute an unconstitutional law of Congress, or do an act not sanctioned by that instrument. Any one who will take the trouble to read the enumeration of the powers of the Grand Master, as set forth in the constitution, will search in vain for even a word which sets him above the constitution itself. Created by it, and possessing not an atom of traditional prerogative—for there is no more similarity between the position which he occupies and that of DE MOLAY and the other ancient Grand Masters of the templars, than there is between him and the Emperor of China—or the King of Dehomeny—he is only supreme, as I have before said, when he keeps within the bounds of the constitution. Even the Master of a symbolic lodge has greater powers than he possesses, for there is no appeal from his decision when presiding, except to the Grand Lodge, and an appeal does lie from the Grand Master's decision when in the chair, to the Grand Encampment by express constitutional provision.

It has been charged in a public print that my protest was "in terms an insult to the Grand Master." The charge is so purile that I should not deem it worthy of notice, here or elsewhere, but for the fact that the Grand Master himself must have indulged in such a thought, for he seems to have ignored my protest, and treated my reasoning with silent contempt—at least he made no acknowledgment of its receipt. If I understand the use of language, there is nothing in my letter which ought to have given offense, and at any rate I am sure I intended no disrespect either toward his person or his office. If to earnestly protest and remonstrate against the performance of an illegal and injudicious act in courteous language is insulting, then every suitor who appeals from a lower to a higher court, is guilty of insulting the court whose decision is appealed from, and every petition for the repeal of injurious laws is insulting to the legislature which passed them. If I had remained silent while the Grand Master was perpetrating so gross a wrong as his edict worked against the Iowa templars, I should have lost my self-respect.

"Right is right, as God is God,
And right will surely win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin."

The man who, for the sake of promoting his ease or personal comfort, or of retaining the good will of any man, folds his arms and stands idly by while his brethren are being, as he believes, deprived of their just rights, and sought to be degraded in the estimation of their fellows everywhere, is a coward and no mason at heart. It is of far less conse-

quence that we should earn a reputation for meekness and amiability, than that we should lose it in an effort to maintain the right. Our deeds are of more importance to those who shall come after us, than we ourselves are. Men seldom pause to inquire whose hand traced or whose brain inspired a statute which confers a benefit or works an injury, but the consequences resulting from its enactment make the law itself the object of respect or denunciation. What we shall do here this year may be undone by those who shall stand in our places another year, but the consequences of our acts are for all time, and cannot be undone. There is no bulwark of safety but in the conscientious performance of duty, regardless of who may be offended. I would have infinitely preferred to have given no one occasion to feel, however groundless, that I was capable of offering an affront to any Knight Templar, much less the Grand Master, for whom I have always entertained, and do now entertain, the most profound respect for his many amiable qualities of head and heart, but who would have applauded the use of honied phrases and insincere words in dealing with a momentous question—lest unhappily some one should fancy that an insult had been given when none was intended. Conscious of the rectitude of my intentions, and claiming no more for myself than I am willing to extend to others, viz: an honest purpose and a sincere desire to guard against the establishment of what I conceive to be a most dangerous precedent, I am not so anxious as to what men may think of the courtesies of the matter, as I am about the soundness of my reasoning.

The history of this ritual legislation is interesting, and if it serves no other purpose than that of directing attention to the hasty, crude and imperfect manner in which the Grand Encampment transacts its business, and some remedy is found, it will not have been without value to the order. At San Francisco, in 1883, Grand Master DEAN presented a manuscript ritual, the history of which I condense from his address to the Grand Encampment. In 1870 the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island called a convention for the special purpose of considering the work and lectures, at which they were fully rehearsed and unanimously adopted, and afterward reported to the Grand Commandery and by it adopted. The copy presented to the Grand Encampment was attested by the Grand Recorder as being a true transcript of the Massachusetts work. The manuscript adopted by the convention was written by command of his Grand Commander, by a venerable man, Sir Knight ABRAM A. DAME, and submitted to several other venerable Sir Knights who had received the work, but one degree removed from THOMAS SMITH WEBB, and one of whom had with him a carefully prepared key, made thirty-five years before, during the anti-masonic

excitement, when the members of Boston Encampment were accustomed to meet weekly at each other's houses and recite the lectures. This key and Sir Knight DAME's manuscript were found to agree with almost undeviating uniformity, the only instances of variation being in unimportant words. Grand Master DEAN regarded it as the ritual used by the founders of the Grand Encampment, and doubtless he is correct, notwithstanding there is said to be a ritual at Providence, which came directly from WEBB, from which it exhibits some variation, which may be accounted for by the fact that WEBB was not a stereotyped plate, and possibly did not always give the ritual in the same words. This manuscript was referred to a committee, who subsequently reported a resolution authorizing and instructing the committee on rituals "to revise and arrange said rituals in dramatic form, with proper rubrics, adapting them for practical use in conferring the orders; they were also authorized to have such revised ritual printed, and it was to be distributed to commanderies; the question of the adoption of the ritual to be postponed for consideration at the next triennial conclave, in the meantime commanderies to be at liberty to use them in conferring the orders. Vide page 285, proceedings 1883.

July 21, 1886, or two months to a day, before the meeting of the Grand Encampment, the committee sent forth its report, in which it declared that it had made no important changes, and those only such as were obviously necessary. The committee gave notice that there were "certain portions of the ritual now submitted—none, however, of great importance—which the committee, after conference at St. Louis, *may* recommend the Grand Encampment to revise or change." It is also "reported that in its investigation and comparison of a great number of rituals of the orders now in use in the various States of the jurisdiction, it finds that there are no very important variations, either in the language or ceremonial; therefore there are no great sacrifices for any of the Grand Commanderies to make in coming together and agreeing upon and adopting one authorized ritual." Of course, there was not sufficient time between the time when the rituals were issued and the meeting of the Grand Encampment for any commandery to work them and discover their defects, though, indeed, it would have done no good to have done so, for when the committee submitted their report at St. Louis so numerous were the changes that the printed copies were generally discarded as useless by the few who were supplied with them. This the chairman of the committee denies in language more vigorous than knightly. In the report of Sir E. T. CARSON, committee on correspondence of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, it is said:

"One of the critics of the ritual says that the ritual as submitted

and read by the committee to the Grand Encampment at St. Louis, was altered and changed during the reading so that it could not be recognized, etc.' 'In the name of that committee, and as chairman of it, we say that this statement is unqualifiedly false! We now have lying before us our copy of the ritual as submitted to the Grand Encampment, with all changes that were made in it during the reading and consideration by the Grand Encampment. In the ceremonial proper there were but few changes made by the Grand Encampment, and scarcely any of importance. The committee submitted the ritual, so far as the ceremony was concerned, in its integrity, as they found it in the manuscript,' etc."

I am not aware that any one makes the precise charge stated, but it doubtless refers to a charge which I made and which I am prepared to establish.

It is not surprising that one who has a habit of misquoting, when it serves his purpose, should have so twisted and turned the real charge which I made, that it practicably becomes a new one, which nobody has ever made, and which he may therefore safely brand as "unqualifiedly false." What I asserted was not a reflection upon the committee, or so intended, for every one expected them to yield to the temptation to make changes. The point is not the time, or the place, but the fact that changes were made in the *DEAN* manuscript, and because of those changes and alterations the ritual presented and acted upon at St. Louis is not the identical ritual introduced at San Francisco, and, therefore, the claim that the introduction and reference to a committee at San Francisco was tantamount to giving the requisite notice in the summons, must fall to the ground. Sir CARSON admits, over his own signature, in the July, 1886, edition of the ritual, that he had made changes, and he also admits that other changes were made before his report was read in the Grand Encampment—*vide* preface to the "only authorized" edition. What he waxes wroth and fumes and calls unknightly names about is a charge of his own creation, that changes were made while the report was being read. He says that "there were but few changes made by the Grand Encampment and scarcely any of importance." There are seventy-seven places in which the "only authorized" edition differs from the edition of July, 1886, in the Red Cross alone. Twenty-five of them are in the work. They are not all rubrical and dramatical, but most of them are square out-and-out changes in the language. It is useless to say that they are not material or important because ritualists never have agreed, and never will agree as to what is material or important. Sir CARSON threatens that if life and voice are spared him, he will make things lurid for those who have the temerity to differ with so great a

man, at Washington, which will possibly deter some of the "malaperts," who have ventured to criticise his work, from attending; but he will find plenty of use for his voice if he succeeds in making good his boast that he will show "that the ritual was presented to the Grand Encampment without a single material addition or amendment by the committee," "by the original manuscript referred to the committee, also with the original printed copy as submitted by the committee to the Grand Encampment." He doubtless intends to crawl out of the "immaterial" hole he has left for himself, but how any man, who is not a veritable **FERNAND MENDEZ PINTO**, can say that the ceremony was submitted "in its integrity as they found it in the manuscript submitted to them for dramatizing," who will compare page twenty-eight of the Red Cross work, in the "only authorized" edition of July, 1886, surpasses comprehension. Of course I do not know just how many variations there may be in the entire ritual between the Massachusetts manuscript and the "only authorized" edition, not having examined the manuscript, but having counted no less than seventy-seven places where the "only authorized" edition and that of July, 1886, differ upon points material and immaterial in the Red Cross alone, it is fair to assume that there are a great many more variations between the original manuscript and the printed edition of July, 1886, especially when the Knight Templar work is included in the count. The temptation to make them before the printing was done, must have been very great, and it is difficult to see how a man who did not hesitate to amend a resolution of the Grand Encampment (*vide* page 155 proceedings, and page 4 of the ritual, and note the difference in the wording of the resolution recommending the rituals for use) to suit his own notions, could resist the opportunity to improve a ritual. The assertion that nothing was done by the committee but to dramatize and rubricate, is completely disposed of by an examination of the character and extent of changes. Compare the "only authorized" edition with the subject matter in the edition of July, 1886, and it will be seen that somebody is mistaken when it is said the ceremony was submitted "in its integrity, as they found it in the manuscript submitted to them for dramatizing." The fact must be patent even to the dullest comprehension that either the edition of July, 1886, or the "only authorized" edition is not a true copy. That they are not alike is certain, and yet Sir CARSON certifies to the "integrity" of both of them.

In Massachusetts, from whose archives Grand Master DEAN procured the copy which he presented to the Grand Encampment, and whose Grand Recorder, V. E. Sir CHAPMAN, certified it, there seems to be some doubt about the committee having submitted the ritual "in its integrity as they found it in the manuscript;" at any rate, the same

Grand Recorder who made the certified copy for Grand Master DEAN says "he knows that the ritual adopted is not that of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, but was changed in many particulars from the text or copy presented by Grand Master DEAN."—Correspondence report, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 1888, page 18. The Rev. Sir J. W. DADMUN, of the same committee, says in a portion of the report written by him:

"The new ritual has already become virtually a dead letter in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, because of its illiteracy; it is a literary blunder. No men of literary taste will work the rituals as they are printed. No templar has ever taken an obligation to use or teach bad grammar. Living under the shadow of Harvard, we try to have a little respect for the King's English. The learned and intelligent representatives of the Grand Encampment could not have known anything about the bungling construction of the language of those documents. No matter has ever come before that grand body of so much importance to templary in the United States as the ritual. The repulsion already created by its issue is serious and alarming. The attempt to force it by orders and interdicts upon the States will destroy uniformity and be a disastrous failure.

"So many 'improvements (?) and changes' have been made in the ritual that we hardly recognize the WEBB lectures. What the first edition was we do not know, but the 'revised edition' astonishes the natives, and is virtually a new ritual, although we can see some old earmarks. We have it—'first edition'—just received. Horse of the same color, with a few more blemishes, such as ring bone, spavin and spring-halt; sometimes lame in one leg, then in all four—a sorry team the two would make."

Doubtless some have supposed that Massachusetts and Rhode Island would be satisfied with the new ritual because it has the "WEBB lectures" for its foundation. But it must be remembered that it is not the skeleton that makes the man; it is the flesh, sinews, arteries and blood that giveth life and comeliness. We agree with the Right Eminent Sir BACON that there are "glaring imperfections" in the dramatized work—*too much drama, "on all fours."*

This ritual business, on the part of the Grand Encampment, is a great stride towards central *absolute power*. No matter what Virginia or any other Grand Commandery may think of it, no matter how utterly disjointed and ungrammatical it may be, it must be swallowed whole by the State bodies, or they will be disfranchised."

It is perhaps no real objection to the rituals that they were adopted under circumstances which utterly precluded the intelligent considera-

tion which should have been given to the subject. The small number of members present in the great hall in which the conclave was held were like seeds in a gourd—so few were there that there was an abundance of room in which to rattle; the balance of the members, which included the majority, were right jolly good fellows, making the most of the parades, drills and feasts—seeking the good time they went to St. Louis to have—and it is needless to say they found it. The big steam engine and interminable shafting in the machinery hall below were important adjuncts, and like the big bands, steam whistles and interminable trains of cars passing and repassing the canvass “cathedral” at Chicago, were conducive to healthy thought. The passage of the rituals of all the orders may be cited as an example of the most bungling piece of legislation extant. Probably not more than ten of the two or three score present during their reading knew what was in them. Is it any wonder that confidence in the Grand Encampment is diminishing every year?

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir DE LAP writes the report on correspondence, and from his opening remarks we are sorry to note that he is still suffering from poor health. We truly hope for his full restoration in a short time; indeed, Sir DE LAP, you must recover entirely, so as to participate with the rest of us “hale and hearty” boys in the coming festivities—you know what we mean—so brace up, old fellow, and come to the front.

KILL THE PRINTER.

Say, Sir DE LAP, kill your printer. He makes you review our “twenty-third” conclave, held last May. It would have been all right if the “three” was where the “two” is. And here you go again: “WILLIAM Pitt INNES!” Oh, no! Put “POWER” where “PITT” is and you have hit it. Your JOHN L. and ourselves are both POWER(ful) men. Do you see the joke?

MICHIGAN.

Sir DE LAP says that Michigan and Sir WILLIAM are silent on the Iowa rebellion. We are only waiting to hear from the back counties. We have already heard from Mississippi at a rate of “SPEED” not to be questioned;

Tennessee has had its word, and when others speak that are expected to then we will be on hand.

CONCLUSION.

We give the conclusion of this more than ordinarily interesting report, and part with pleasurable anticipation of hearing from Sir DE LAP in this same direction next year:

We note, with pleasure, that the signs of a healthy and vigorous growth of the order are apparent in nearly all of the Grand Commanderies. Peace reigns supreme, except in so far as the "Iowa rebellion" is concerned. This matter is not so generally and fully considered in the addresses of Grand Commanders and reports on correspondence as we had expected and hoped for, as it was from these we expected to prognosticate the action likely to be had in October next. What that action should be is, in our opinion, very plain, and that is, the Grand Master should be rebuked for his arrogant assumption of powers belonging to the Grand Encampment. Iowa should be sustained in her action. The ESSENTIALS of the ritual should be agreed upon, and, legally, promulgated, and the non-essentials left where they belong, to the good taste and judgment of the subordinate grand bodies. That uniformity can be obtained in anything beyond the essential points in the ritual, we do not believe, nor do we consider it particularly desirable. What the outcome of the matter will be, we cannot, of course, tell, but we cannot believe that the representatives of the 75,000 templars in the United States will endorse the arbitrary ex-communication of 3,000 of as loyal, intelligent and magnanimous Sir Knights as there are in the world, by any one man. If they should do so, they may reasonably expect a similar dose on the slightest sign of a disposition to assert their manhood, and—we shall be glad of it.

For the many kindly words of the corps for Mississippi, and this committee, we are truly grateful, and we wish them, one and all, all the happiness and good they desire in this world, and in that to come, an eternity of blessedness at God's right hand.

Some of the pamphlets have not reached us, and, per consequence, do not appear in this report, but the fault is not with us.

Craving your kind indulgence for the many imperfections in this report, and praying that health and happiness may be yours, and that our order may continue to grow and prosper.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir FREDERIC SPEED, Vicksburg, re-elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN L. POWER, Jackson, re-elected Grand Recorder.

MISSOURI.

TWENTY-SEVENTH annual conclave was held in the city of Saint Louis, commencing May 8, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir ELI H. MIX, Grand Commander.

Sir WM. H. MAYO, Grand Recorder.

Forty-two subordinate commanderies represented. Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

SHEATHED THEIR SWORDS.

The Grand Commander in his address notices the fact that twenty-nine Sir Knights of his jurisdiction have been called upon to sheathe their swords and to receive the fadeless crown of immortal life beyond the clouds and beyond the tomb, and to the widows and orphans of those gone before, he offers that deep, sincere sympathy that springs from the hearts of brothers in bereavement.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions have been made by the Grand Commander during the year and approved:

Question. Can a commandery print the ritualistic duties of officers as per Grand Encampment ritual with their by-laws?

Answer. No. It would not be proper to print any part of ritual with by-laws.

Question. Would it be necessary to procure second recommendation for a commandery, the first application having been refused for dispensation?

Answer. Yes. When a dispensation has been refused for any cause it can be revived only by new petition. On the same principle a new recommendation should be obtained, and all commanderies whose jurisdiction would be affected thereby duly notified.

Question. Can a commandery by changing its by-laws shorten the term of officers to less than one year.

Answer. No. They must hold over until the next annual election.

Question. Are commanderies required to use the new ritual.

Answer. Yes, the ritual as adopted by the Grand Encampment in 1886, and the Knights of Malta ritual adopted in 1883, are obligatory.

INCREASED RECOMPENSE.

He recommends that the Grand Recorder should receive increased recompense for the onerous duties performed by him. Which recommendation, we are glad to know, was concurred in.

CONCLUSION.

He concludes his address as follows:

Sir Knights: I desire to express to you my sincere thanks for the distinguished honor conferred on me one year ago, and to assure you that it has been my constant endeavor to bear aloft the noble banner of our order. I am under many obligations to all the grand officers and Sir Knights for the kind and courteous treatment received, and especially to Past Grand Commander JOHN R. PARSON, Eminent Sir ROBERT McCULLOCH and Eminent Sir WM. H. MAYO, who have ever been ready and willing when called upon with their time, counsel and judgment.

Finally, Sir Knights, as guardians of a sacred trust to perpetuate and transmit unimpaired to future generations this noble order of Christian knighthood, let us make room in our hearts—make room in the everyday walks of life—for that Christ-like spirit for humanity, that others may be induced to crave permission to partake of our libations and vow fealty to Emanuel.

PROCEEDINGS LOCAL ONLY.

Proceedings are local in their character, but interesting to the Sir Knights within the jurisdiction.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir WM. H. MAYO presents his eleventh report on correspondence, and opens as follows:

In presenting this our eleventh report we want, first, to congratulate this jurisdiction on its prosperity and general good condition in all respects and particularly in its finances. For the past several years we have had to borrow money which at one time run up into the thousands; this was done for the purpose of properly entertaining the many thousand visitors that were within our gates in 1886. Through judicious management we were eminently successful in two ways: first, in pleasing ourselves, and secondly, in pleasing our visitors, judging

from the universally kind expressions and comments coming from all parts of this broad land, which is very gratifying indeed and compensates largely for the time and funds spent by our fraters. Through good management our finances are in a healthy condition and doubtless will be in such good shape when the Grand Commandery meets in May that all obligations will be discharged and by the use of economy it is to be hoped we will not have to borrow again. In view of these facts and because we have the proceedings of every grand jurisdiction of templars before us for the year 1887, the one under consideration, we breathe freer, and feel that in the near future a much better report will accompany the proceedings of this grand jurisdiction than has for several years past at least. It affords us great pleasure to present to our readers this year the statistical table found at the head of this report; it is a table we have tried in vain to compile in former years, but have failed because we could not get the necessary information; but by persistent urging some of the proper officers in several grand jurisdictions we present the only complete and correct table of Knights Templar statistics for a given calendar year that we have ever seen, containing date of conclave for 1887 with name and address of Grand Commander for 1887 and 1888, time and place of annual conclave for 1888 of each grand jurisdiction, and other valuable information for the masonic student.

Having properly and correctly noticed every grand jurisdiction in this table we may pass by some of the States in the following general review, devoting very little space to them, as the proceedings of many of the States are short, routine, and of local interest only.

IOWA.

Under his review of Iowa he gives nearly everything that was said on the ritual by that jurisdiction, and says:

We have given the foregoing pages in full, that our readers may be informed of Iowa's action and the cause; because to us, a thoroughly reconstructed ex-rebel and democrat, we must say plainly that such an order as the above countermanding and setting aside the positive command of a superior and governing body smacks too much of rebellion for our thoroughly reconstructed and loyal nature. And for the present we will only say that it is very strange indeed for one who is doubtless well versed in masonic law and parliamentary usage as Sir DEWEY is, to raise such a flimsy question or produce such a weak argument as he does on the question of adopting any measure "*by a majority of votes*" twelve months after the legislation was had. We also desire to ask this very pertinent question: If the Grand Commandery of Iowa had never

adopted the beautiful work prepared by the accomplished and lamented BOWER, had it printed and distributed among its subordinates, of which they were and are justly proud, would ever this rebellious action been allowed in this grand State?

Good joke on the reconstructed Democrat from Missouri and the Simon-pure Republican from Iowa.

KENTUCKY.

Under Kentucky he says of the Grand Commander's address:

He also reports a very strange proceeding indeed, viz.: that of thinking he could accept the resignation of the duly elected and installed Grand Generalissimo because he was blind, and worse than all, appointed by general order No. 2 a successor, all which was as a matter of course very promptly and properly corrected on the convening of the Grand Commandery; and then again later on, near the close of the conclave when the annual election was had, that self same Grand Generalissimo was duly promoted to the office of V. E. Deputy Grand Commander amid an enthusiasm that seems to have known no bounds.

It is singular to us how the Grand Commander could have committed such an error and under such circumstances, but the Grand Commandery made it all right, and as "all is well that ends well," let us hope it was for the best.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan for 1887 has fraternal consideration. He quotes in full "our HUGH'S" report on grievances, and says: "Who but "our HUGH" McCURDY could have written such a report?" Well, in Michigan, nobody; don't know how it is in Missouri.

NEBRASKA.

Of Sir BOWEN'S report, under Nebraska, he says:

Sir WM. R. BOWEN, Grand Recorder, presents in fifty pages a painstaking and well prepared paper. Reviewing the different jurisdictions we like his introduction, and never could see any sense in calling it "foreign," consequently several years ago we discarded the use of such a term and find with pleasure that many others are doing the same thing; now let us go to work and change our laws so as to read "committee on fraternal correspondence" or review, or anything except "foreign."

We took the same view of this matter some time ago and dropped the "foreign."

THE GREAT RECONSTRUCTED.

Michigan space is devoted to Ohio, and from the comments made by Sir MAYO, nobody can doubt his entire reconstruction; indeed we wonder why Sir MAYO is not posing before the powers at Washington for recognition as the "great reconstructed." Such loyalty ought not to go unrewarded.

CONCLUSION.

We give Sir MAYO's conclusion in full:

We have again arrived at that most interesting part of our task—the conclusion. We have carefully read, noted and quoted from each of the thirty-five templar grand jurisdictions; we have compiled a very valuable table of statistics, review, table facts and figures, all for the year 1887.

We claim for the extracts quoted that they are the action and comments of general interest in their respective States, and are all well worth the time of our readers spent in a careful and quiet perusal.

We have devoted considerable space to the consideration of matters that have occurred in the States of Iowa and Ohio, because they are of more importance and general interest than all other matters and the acts of all other states. The writers, speakers and leaders in the templar world have for nearly a quarter of a century past been clamoring for a uniform ritual, and just as soon as one was adopted we hear of a whole State, or its leaders at least, (for we do not believe that the large majority of good and true loyal templars of Iowa agree with the rebellious action had, as dictated by a few leaders) rebelling against the action of the supreme and governing body, instead of trying in a legitimate manner to correct the errors and omissions complained of.

In Ohio we find our fraters have encountered a sea-serpent, a white elephant, a hydra-headed monster or something of that kind that has given them the shivers, buck ague or a genuine shaking up; the same apparition has appeared quite strong in Maryland, and its shadow has flitted through Kentucky and been heard of in a few other States, but no attention has been paid to it scarcely. Illegitimate, irregular, illegal and unmasonic degrees will exist and continue to be peddled out just so long as men have curiosity and money to invest in such things, in the same way that long haired men and short haired women of a single idea,

fanatics, salvation army agitators, traveling song and dance sensationalists, exist and flourish for a time in the religious world. These mushrooms must grow, this froth must rise to the surface and be seen very conspicuously for a time, and in many instances attract the attention and attack the pockets of good men; but they all soon pass away to give place to some other fad or notion or fanaticism. Where is the man of brains, information and education, with quiet reasoning powers that will say, after reflection, that such excrescences and fads permanently affect freemasonry or true religion in the least?

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir ALLAN McDOWELL, St. Louis, elected Grand Commander.

Sir WM. H. MAYO, St. Louis, re-elected Grand Recorder.

MONTANA.

ON May 14, A. O. 770, A. D. 1888, Virginia City Commandery, No. 1, Helena, No. 2, Montana, No. 3, and Damascus, No. 4, met in the city of Helena, and were called to order by Past Eminent Commander Sir WALTER E. FREDERICK, acting as proxy for the M. E. Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States, and under a legal warrant invited the Sir Knights present to proceed to organize a Grand Commandery Knights Templar for the territory of Montana.

RESOLUTION.

The committee on credentials reported those entitled to seats in the convention, whereupon it was

Resolved, By the delegates of Virginia City commandery, No. 1; Helena commandery, No. 2; Montana commandery, No. 3, and Damascus commandery, No. 4, assembled, that we deem it expedient for the well being of the order of Christian knighthood in Montana that we now proceed to the organization of a Grand Commandery in and for Montana.

DULY CONSTITUTED.

Code of statutes was then presented and adopted, after which they proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. The officers were duly installed, and after being conducted to their several official stations, the Grand Commandery of Montana was declared duly constituted and organized, and official proclamation made thereof.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir ANDREW J. FISK, Helena, elected Grand Commander.
Sir CORNELIUS HEDGES, Helena, elected Grand Recorder.

NEBRASKA.

SIXTEENTH annual conclave was held in the city of Grand Island, commencing April 10, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir EDGAR S. DUDLEY, Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Grand Recorder.

Fourteen subordinate commanderies represented. Seven Past Grand Commanders present.

SECOND BEST.

This is Sir BOWEN'S State, and the proceedings are BOWEN'S particular style—few equal, none excel. As Sir WHEELER, of Omaha, says, in a letter to the writer: "After Nebraska we (Michigan) may come in second best," and he says, "that is no mean compliment to pay you, Sir INNES." Now, Sir BOWEN, ain't we good to you, to quote from private correspondence, to make you feel elated?

GOOD LOOKING.

The frontispiece of the proceedings present the handsome likeness of a "mighty good looking man," Sir EDGAR S. DUDLEY. From the badges he wears, we are inclined to

think he has gained honors in other directions, which we do not wonder at, for he is handsome enough for anything.

DISPENSATION.

Dispensation was granted to form a new commandery at Hebron.

VISITATION.

The Grand Commander has the usual say-so, that he had neither time nor opportunity to visit all the commanderies, etc., etc., but we will assume his intentions were good.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

On the subject of grand representatives, he thus speaks of their representatives abroad:

R. E. Sir CARLE A. WOODRUFF has made his report as our grand representative, which I herewith submit to this grand body. It is the only one received by me. In this particular I think the vast majority of grand representatives are remiss in their duties. It seems to me that a grand representative who fails to attend the conclaves of the Grand Commandery to which he is accredited, and report facts of interest occurring in the jurisdiction he represents, and then, in turn, give account of his acts, together with useful or interesting facts occurring in the body with which he has met, to the one he represents, is no representative at all. He is supposed to be an immediate and direct means of communication between these two bodies. The present manner of representation is defective, and Grand Commanderies are beginning to think that such appointments are more a mere matter of form and compliment than for the accomplishment of any good to be expected from them.

The fault is not alone with the representatives, but with the Grand Commanderies also, which fail to call upon them for any report of their official acts, or to state what they expect of them. Section 21 of our law states what we desire of those accredited near our Grand Commandery, and, the law now being printed and distributed, there will hereafter be no excuse for negligence of the prescribed duty.

If these commissions are mere complimentary forms, with no attendant duties, the sooner they are dispensed with the better. If, on the contrary, they are intended to strengthen fraternal feeling, extend knightly courtesy, and afford a means of communication through reports to each of the bodies to which they owe their official position, then some good may be derived from these appointments. The com-

missioning of a Sir Knight as "grand representative" means more than is usually applied to the office or it means too little.

Michigan perhaps is benighted in this direction, but we fail to see the use of the "high muck-a-mucks."

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander, and approved by the committee on jurisprudence:

1. The Commander of Mount Hermon commandery, No. 7 wrote, May 21, 1887: "In the new ritual * * it seems to be lawful to open a commandery if there are present seven regular Sir Knights of the order, and I also notice a similar change * * in the Red Cross." He desires to know how we are "to get around previous obligations which require more Sir Knights to be present at the opening."

A similar question was asked by the Commander of Mount Sinai commandery, No. 8, February 22, 1888.

I replied that "the adoption of a ritual has not changed the law in the matter referred to." * * * "The law of the Grand Encampment requires nine, a larger number than stated in the ritual, and that law, not being repealed, still governs."

I subsequently found that the same questions in substance were, later, submitted to Grand Master ROOME, by the Grand Commanders of Kentucky and Illinois, and his decision was to the same effect, sustaining mine as above given.

2. July 18, 1887, I received a communication from the Commander of Mount Tabor commandery, No. 9, asking if it was competent for that commandery "to act upon the petition of a Sir Knight for membership before he obtains his dimit from the commandery of which he is a member."

My reply was that it could not act upon the petition and elect him to membership. He should get his dimit and then apply. No Knight Templar can be a member of two commanderies at the same time.

3. The Commander of Saint Johns commandery, No. 16, stated, September 16, 1887, that the Captain General of that commandery had placed his resignation in his hands and also asked for a dimit from that commandery, and asks if these requests can be granted.

My reply was that he could neither resign nor dimit.

4. The Commander of Mount Hermon commandery, No. 7, wrote, October 3, 1887: "A Royal Arch Mason who has just received dimits from his lodge and chapter, desires to petition our commandery to-morrow evening for the orders. He has not yet had an opportunity

to petition the other bodies for membership, but will do so at their first meeting. Is there any objection to receiving, and, in due time, acting upon his petition, even though he is not a member of the other bodies?"

I replied that "a Royal Arch Mason, in good standing, may petition for the order of knighthood, even though not a member of any lodge or chapter. (Section 32, paragraph 2, code of statutes, Grand Encampment.)"

5. The Commander of Mount Hebron commandery, No. 12, submitted the following questions, February 11, 1888: (1) When the Sir Knights of another town petition us for a recommendation for dispensation is it necessary that they furnish us with a certificate of dimit from their own commandery as to their good standing, or will their simply passing an examination be sufficient? (2) As to territorial jurisdiction: "Is the distance computed by railroad or by straight line? For instance, Minden, south of us, is sixteen miles by wagon road, while by rail it would be about seventy-five miles, as we would have to go by Hastings, while from Holdredge to Minden would be only about forty miles, and from Hastings, about thirty-five miles; now in what jurisdiction is Minden?"

I replied as follows:

(1) It will only be necessary for you to know that the applicants are "nine Sir Knights in good standing." They must satisfy you of that. (2) The Grand Commandery resolution now in force on jurisdiction is: "The distance shall be computed via the most direct railroad line, or, if there be no railroad communication, by the most direct public highway." This would seem to place both Minden and Holdredge under the jurisdiction of Hastings, unless some other arrangements have previously been agreed upon between you."

This question of jurisdiction is an important one, and unless it is well understood that lines of boundary as they existed previous to the adoption of that resolution, were boundaries "previously agreed upon" there is great liability of trouble. Every new railroad will change the jurisdiction of two or more of our commanderies, and the limits of each should be distinctly defined and agreed upon.

It may become necessary for this Grand Commandery annually at its regular conclave, to arrange the boundaries in case of all such changes due to new railroad communications.

6. The Commander of Mount Hermon commandery, No. 7, asks, April 4, 1888, "whether or not the conclave of next Friday evening (the time prescribed by the Grand Commandery for election of officers) is a 'regular' conclave. Can the regular business be transacted at that conclave?"

I replied that it was a regular conclave at which any business can be transacted that is in order; that is, except where it must lie over for a definite time, as four weeks for petitions.

THE RITUAL.

On the ritual he says:

The Grand Recorder having reported to me that a package had been received by him, April 27, 1887, supposed to contain rituals sent by the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of the United States for the use of this jurisdiction, and asking my direction in regard thereto, I ordered them to be received and distributed as provided for by the Grand Encampment at the time of the adoption thereof at the last triennial conclave; and as two commanderies had since then been instituted, application to be made for two additional copies for their use. He reports having sent copies to fifteen chartered commanderies May 15, and to the remaining two July 29, 1887.

Our commanderies are therefore all supplied with the adopted ritual. I also received from him the copy to which I am entitled as one of the members of the Grand Encampment present when it was adopted. The copy for the use of the Grand Commander, not therefore being needed by me, remains in the hands of the Grand Recorder.

The ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment of the United States at its last triennial conclave has been in use in this jurisdiction and carefully followed in the commanderies I have visited, with the exception of Mount Hebron, No. 12, where I found considerable variance, due, the Commander informs me, to the difficulty of unlearning old work and substituting new in its place. By another year it is to be hoped this difficulty will be entirely overcome.

The working of the new ritual is not a matter of choice or opinion, but made necessary under our vows of office and the oath of allegiance to the Grand Encampment and of obedience to its edicts, which in this case are mandatory.

It is probably true that every one accustomed to any particular form of work thinks anything else not its equal in merit, and he deplores defects, real or imaginary, in the adopted work. But that very fact is an argument for uniformity; for minds differ as to what is really beautiful and best. Beauty of form or expression alone will not suffice if it should go outside of the great truths we wish to inculcate, and yet united with those truths to make them impressive is of great value. The committee followed very closely the ancient work placed in their hands at the triennial conclave in 1883. They, therefore, omitted many things which I had come to believe beautified the work and impressed

its teachings more strongly on the candidate. I loved and used what has been known as the "Kentucky" ritual, familiar, I think, to all commanders in this jurisdiction, and I regret much of it, modern though it may be, which has been omitted in the adopted work.

Yet, as may be seen by the records, it was upon my own motion that the present ritual was adopted in the Grand Encampment. To one who was present during the discussion concerning the ritual at the time, the differences of opinion were so evident—the suggestions for changes so numerous—and opinions as to the necessity of each by its supporters so decidedly strong, that it was an evidently absolute impossibility that they could be properly considered or changes adopted. It was very evident that there was but one thing to do to secure the uniformity in ritual so long desired—and so often defeated by these very differences—and that was to place the welfare of the order above personal choice, desire or admiration, and adopt the report of the committee that had expended three years of hard work in its preparation, and thereafter to bring proposed amendments, corrections, etc., before the Grand Encampment in due form for its action. Each will necessarily have his individual opinion and desire, but each and all should also be willing to yield it for the general good.

Measures will be taken to bring proposed changes in the ritual to the notice of the Grand Encampment at the next triennial conclave, through the committee on ritual, to whom they should be submitted. I should think it entirely proper and advisable for this grand body to take action in this matter, and, placing proposed changes in proper form, give its recommendations into the hands of the committee of the Grand Encampment on ritual at an early day.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The following recommendations were made by the Grand Commander:

Our jurisdiction is large in territorial extent, the number of subordinate commanderies is yearly increasing, whilst our Grand Commanders are business or professional men whose time is occupied in their daily avocations, and they can neither afford the time nor endure the expense necessary to visit each and every commandery, and yet inspections are beneficial, and are provided for in other jurisdictions.

Every commandery ought to be inspected at least once, annually, as to its rendition of the work, the manner of keeping its books, its uniforms, and in all matters that appertain to its general welfare.

I would recommend, that as in other jurisdictions, the State be

divided into districts, and these each be assigned to the most conveniently located grand officer for his inspection and report.

At each annual conclave also, the grand officers should exemplify the ritual, which is now uniform, and every one of them should know his duty and the work, of at least his own position, in opening and closing in full form, as well as in conferring the orders.

No one can learn our work and enter into the spirit of its teachings who will not be bettered by it. No man can join our organization and take its solemn vows without becoming, or at least resolving to become a better man.

The knights of old were warriors, and we as their successors wear the emblems of war. We wear the sword, but we wear also the symbols of peace in memory of Him who came to bring "peace on earth, good will to men."

This is a religious order, and we should often recall to our memories the words of that creed which we repeat together, in testimony of our belief in Him through whose death and resurrection we are assured of the mortality of this earthly body, and of the immortality of the soul. This order has an object and a purpose far beyond the mere appearance on parade of its members in gaudy plumes and glittering uniforms, else it would long since have passed into deserved oblivion. The mere love of pomp and show contains no elements to ensure perpetuity, and if that were all there is of the order, it would long ago have ceased to exist.

We wear the uniform not alone for display, though I sometimes think the love of display enters into it, but we wear it because of its symbolism. Every article we wear, every color in each, symbolizes something to the understanding knight.

Our swords even represent to the initiate peaceful qualities and the teachings of our Divine Master.

We fight now not against the heathen foe, or to recover the sepulchre of our Savior, but rather against the evils of this world—against all that tends to degrade man or woman—for purity of character and nobleness of life. We are bound to practice charity and hospitality, to oppose and fight evil, and to cultivate and encourage all that is moral and divine.

TARDINESS.

Nothing bashful about Sir BOWEN. After giving a most interesting report of his official acts, he says:

I have written this somewhat detailed statement, so different from my previous annual reports, to satisfy myself that I have done a fair

year's work, and I submit it to you for the same purpose. My reason for so doing is that our 1887 proceedings were very tardily issued; you are aware that I am anxious and competent to do my work promptly, unless prevented by matters beyond my control, which I content myself by saying was the case this year. If the Grand Commandery violates its own laws, it must not expect its Recorder to make his tale of bricks without straw. One instance of the result of the Grand Commander's laxness, is the fact that a discrepancy of about one hundred dollars remained undiscovered for eleven months, which, in case of death of either of the few knights connected therewith, might have proved embarrassing, to say the least. It is hoped that the difficulties experienced this year will not be encountered hereafter.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

The following report was adopted:

Your special committee, to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Commander's address relative to the duties of grand representatives, heartily approve of the sentiments expressed by the Grand Commander; and we recommend that the representatives of other Grand Commanderies, near this Grand Commandery, at an early day, make a report to our grand representative near such Grand Commandery, of all matters of general interest connected with the proceedings of this grand body, and require our grand representatives to make a similar report relative to the proceedings within their jurisdictions.

A TRUE AND TRUSTY KNIGHT.

Sir Knight WEMPLE from the special committee of which he was chairman, submitted the following report and resolution, which were adopted:

Your detail, to whom was referred that part of the Grand Commander's address relating to his farewell, and his regret in the probabilities of a removal from this grand jurisdiction, beg leave to report as follows:

THAT, WHEREAS, We all recognize in R. E. Sir E. S. DUDLEY, a true and trusty knight and courteous gentleman, and that he has always been found ready to draw his sword in every just and virtuous cause, and defend the right, and that his association with us has been both pleasant and profitable; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery tender to R. E. Sir E. S. DUDLEY our best wishes and knightly regards, and pray that the great God of heaven will go with him and his through the journey of life, and that His rich blessings be showered upon them, and that our loss in his

removal will be the gain of those with whom he may be associated in the future.

A FINE ENGRAVING.

A fine engraving is also presented in this volume, of Grand Captain General H. BAXTER NICHODEMUS, who died while in the active discharge of his duties.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir BOWEN writes the report on correspondence, and here is his heading—"Review of the Current Proceedings of Fellow Grand Commanderies." Fellow Grand Commanderies is good, but by the stroke of the pen he changes the gender. Oh, ungallant BOWEN! And here is his signature: "WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Reviewing Officer." How the boys must have quailed when they marched in review before that good disciplinarian and soldier.

MICHIGAN.

Of Michigan and the writer, he says many pleasant things, for which we return thanks; but we are reminded we have already occupied much space with this interesting report, and shall therefore give only the opening remarks of this "reviewing officer."

BOWEN, come again; you are a brick.

The writer of this review has not the knowledge wherewith to decide, nor the time wherein to investigate, when or why were written the first "reports on foreign correspondence" in freemasonry, Royal Arch masonry, or Knight Templary; the to us awkward term, "report on foreign correspondence," seems to imply either that the writers of these reports were sentinels to give warning of danger threatened by that which was foreign and antagonistic, or else that, as is now sometimes the case, our organization had two secretaries, one for domestic affairs and one for correspondence abroad; quite likely the latter is the correct conclusion, for the time has never been when freemasonry was not threatened by antagonism, being, as it is, and from its very nature needs must be, a selfish organization, withholding from mankind at large the benefits it secures to its own members; freemasonry concentrates for the chosen few the relief, the hospitality and the charity which its members would give to the multitude did freemasonry not exist—which would be scattered along our unfenced pathway through life—and the only benefit in

this regard that the world gains is from our habit of giving; we give alms to the needy who are not of us, because of our habit of extending relief to our own brethren and kin, and we give the bread of this life in the hope that the bread of the life hereafter may be freely given unto us.

If, therefore, in our ignorance of the original and true meaning of the phrase, "report on foreign correspondence," we conclude that it refers to the dual duty of the recording and corresponding officer of our organization, then may we also conclude that it does not properly pertain to such work as we here essay: there is nothing foreign treated upon; there is no single item of correspondence to or from our hand; there is no foreign correspondence because our order exists only among those of our English tongue.

Having thus drummed out of our camp the report on foreign correspondence, we seek a name to take the place of the one discarded, and the military and literary *review* comes to the front—a single word that, to our mind, expresses clearly the idea that our fellow Grand Commanderies pass in review with Sir NEBRASKA as the reviewing officer.

Therefore, dear Sir Knights of Nebraska, masonic comrades-in-arms, kind and courteous fraters of fifteen years' campaigning, we submit to you this review of the current proceedings of our fellow Grand Commanderies, on which as many long evenings have been passed as there are jurisdictions reviewed, with many of you in mind as we checked this or that passage for comment, thinking that Sir JOHN would be interested, Sir CHARLES be rejoiced, and Sir JAMES be surprised, to find the fact that we record for each one's benefit.

Several of this year's reviewers announce at the outset the kind of review they intend to write. Some are to be brief, for want of time or money; some are merely to present extracts, omitting all comment thereon, either because they deem this the best way to entertain and instruct their readers, or because in former reviews they have said all they had to say; others, few in number, write ample reviews, with extract and comment blended in such admirable proportions that he who reads is richly rewarded. Our review is written—we finish with this introduction, because it seemed useless to write a preface until we knew the review would be completed—what man is that who builds a porch ere the house be nearly finished? Our review is written; it has been written without plan, and we have presented such matters as seemed interesting or instructive; we have not plowed through each pamphlet from beginning to end, turning over each atom; where we found nothing to remark upon we have made no remark, omitting to say, "here is nothing remarkable." The templar field for review is limited;

there are few topics under discussion, and it is only for Nebraska that this is written; like our chapter review, it is for home consumption, written in the hope that this half-loaf will be considered better than no bread at all.

A word to our fellow reviewers, whose appetites were so whetted by Sir MONELE's review of 1884 that even after three years they inquire if Sir JOHN has not returned "Mr. PORTI's fracture" and is not ready for work again; we claim no seat among the "Mutuals," much as we admire them; we have not won our spurs and doubt if we ever shall; but we do ask that any earnestness that we may have shown in writing this review be not mistaken for any inferior feeling.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOHN J. WEMPLE, Hastings, elected Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Omaha, re-elected Grand Recorder.

NEW YORK.

SEVENTY-FIFTH annual conclave was held in the city of Albany, commencing October 9, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir THEODORE E. HASLEHURST, Grand Commander.

Sir ROBERT MACOY, Grand Recorder.

Fifty-six subordinate commanderies represented. Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

LETTER OF REGRETS.

A letter was received from Grand Master ROOME, regretting his inability to be present at the grand conclave, owing to ill health.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

In opening his address, the Grand Commander says:

The unceasing pulsations of time have again brought us together, at this, the seventy-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York.

The time, the place, the occasion, are harmonious, and present elements of interest to us as Knights Templar.

Organized in 1814, the meetings of the grand body were held in the city of New York until the year 1853, when it assembled in the city of Albany, and continued to do so until the year 1857, when the present system of meetings at different localities was inaugurated.

At the time of the first meetings in the city of Albany—thirty-five years ago—the commanderies on the roll numbered eleven, and to-day the fruitage of the three-quarters century of progress represents fifty-six, with a membership of eight thousand.

We hold our present conclave on grand old masonic ground—at a period which marks three-quarters of a century of continuous existence, and demand this recognition at our hands.

The steady growth of our order during the past seventy-five years, the harmony which has ever pervaded the annual conclaves, the ever increasing interest in that which tends to the advancement of templarism, is a record proudly to be cherished by us of the present, and a memorial illustrative of the thoroughness of those Sir Knights who, seventy-five years ago, joined the several links into the official chain.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

We notice a new departure in these proceedings, which we fully endorse. Accompanying the necrological reports, are fine portraits of those to whom the reports refer. We commend this method to all those who have the means to avail themselves of it. The first likeness is that of Sir ZENAS C. PRIEST, a knight who in our early youth we were proud to know.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander, and approved by the Grand Commandery:

1. That a Past Grand Commander of Missouri, having dimitted from that jurisdiction and affiliated with a subordinate commandery of this jurisdiction, subsequently elected to membership in this Grand Commandery, ranks in this Grand Commandery as Past Eminent Commander, and Past Grand Commander of Missouri.
2. It is lawful for an Eminent Commander, being absent from the jurisdiction of his commandery, to place the warrant of commandery in the hands of the Generalissimo during such absence.
3. That the right to ask for a dispensation does not lie with the Eminent Commander, but with the commandery, and the request for a

dispensation must be made by a majority vote of the commandery, and the application, therefore, to the Grand Commander must be made under the seal of the commandery.

4. A Sir Knight, having taken a dimit from his commandery, and remaining unaffiliated, the Commandery has no right to elect him an honorary member.

5. A companion, having received the order of the Red Cross, objection is made to conferring the order of the temple upon him. Notice of the conclave at which the candidate was elected, containing the information that the candidate's name would at that time be presented for ballot, not having been sent to the objector, the objection is equivalent to a rejection by ballot, and the candidate can only receive the order of the temple by a petition and ballot.

6. Question. "A companion holding a dimit from lodge and chapter, from another State, has been in this jurisdiction over a year. Is he eligible to receive the orders of knighthood without first affiliating with lodge and chapter?"

Answer. Yes. See code of statutes (G. E.) Sec. XXXII.

Permit me to say in this connection, that although the templar law allows such a proceeding, it appears to my mind that if a brother companion, after having received the degrees in lodge and chapter, desires to advance in masonry without becoming a "supporting pillar" in the very foundation and life of templarism, he would be no credit or benefit to our order, and if I had the privilege of exercising the right to ballot in such a case, the law on the subject would never be called into question.

THE RITUAL.

Of the ritual, the Grand Commander says:

The ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment at St. Louis in 1886 has had a year's trial in this jurisdiction, and I have yet to learn of a commandery that is favorably impressed with it. However, we must bide our time. The Grand Commandery of New York has always been loyal to the Grand Encampment and on the side of legitimate authority.

The Deputy Grand Commander in his report says: "So far as my observation extends, the commanderies in this part of our jurisdiction have obeyed the behests of the Grand Encampment and conformed their ritualistic work to the ritual as promulgated by that grand body, but all join in praying for a speedy release from the use of the ritual as adopted." I have no doubt that your representatives at the next conclave of the Grand Encampment will give this subject the consideration it deserves.

In this connection permit me to call your attention to the unhappy

controversy growing out of the ritual, which has arisen between the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment and the Grand Commandery of Iowa. Without entering into the merits of the controversy, which in my judgment would be unwise for me or the Grand Commandery to attempt, it is sufficient for me to state that the Most Eminent Grand Master has issued an edict interdicting all templar intercourse between the Grand Commandery of Iowa and all Sir Knights in its obedience and the loyal Knights Templar of the United States until said edict shall be revoked.

The Grand Encampment is the only body clothed with authority to consider this question. That body is composed of representatives from the various Grand Commanderies of the United States, who are chosen with reference to their fitness to determine honestly and intelligently all questions presented to them. Their action upon questions of this character is judicial, and must be determined by the facts presented to them, and it would be manifestly unwise and improper to attempt to influence or control them by any action of the individual Grand Commanderies which they represent, however much the members of those bodies may deplore the situation which practically disfranchises a very large body of our brethren.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

Resolutions of condolence were tendered V. E. Deputy Grand Commander Sir AUSTIN C. WOOD, for the loss of his beloved wife, and he and his family commended to the loving care and guidance of our Heavenly Father.

COMMITTEE ON RITUAL.

The committee to whom was referred that part of the Grand Commander's address relating to the ritual, submitted the following report:

In obedience to the edicts of the constituted authorities, the commanderies of this jurisdiction have lawfully accepted the ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment in 1886; but a due regard for truth compels us to say that it was not received with unalloyed pleasure, and after one year's experience in its use it has not grown in favor. It is evident that when such general dissatisfaction exists there must be a cause, and it becomes the duty of the Grand Commandery to ascertain that cause, and to use all lawful and proper means to have the same remedied. We therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the first four officers of this Grand Commandery be and they are hereby requested to carefully examine the rituals of the

orders of Knights of the Red Cross and Knights Templar adopted by the Grand Encampment of the United States in 1886, and to formulate such amendments thereto as will in their judgment tend to remove cause for dissatisfaction, in regard to said rituals, which may exist in this jurisdiction; and when so formulated, that notice thereof be given to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment in accordance with the constitution of that body, to the end that the same may receive consideration at the next triennial conclave at Washington, D. C., in October, 1889.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS.

The following amendment to the Grand Commandery regulations, was unanimously adopted:

Any member of a commandery refusing or neglecting to pay his dues for one year, shall, after thirty days' notice, be subject to having his name dropped from the roll of his commandery, by a majority vote; such penalty shall cease upon the payment of the amount due at the time when his name was so dropped from the roll, and by a majority vote of the members of the commandery then present.

NEXT ANNUAL CONCLAVE.

The date for the next annual conclave, in accordance with the recommendation of the Grand Commander, was fixed at a date after the meeting of the Grand Encampment, in place of their usual time, which occurs at same time of Grand Encampment.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir JESSA B. ANTHONY, acting for the committee on correspondence, commences his report as follows:

In presenting this, the thirty-sixth annual report on correspondence, a word of explanation is necessary.

At the annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York, held October 9th, at which this report (incomplete) was presented, the chairman, M. E. Sir JOHN W. SIMONS, was unable to be in attendance, owing to his severe illness; and, in order that the report might be completed in time for the printing of the transactions, the R. E. Grand Commander (elect) requested the writer to undertake the work.

The duty assigned was in all respects a labor of love, for gladly would I have, at any time, done all in my power for the aid of my friend and loved Sir Knight SIMONS. I regarded the task a temporary

one, trusting that the chairman might, as of old, continue in the discharge of a duty for which he was so eminently and peculiarly fitted; but alas, "man proposes and God overrules," and it becomes my sad duty to announce, that he, whose pen has illuminated the pages of the Grand Commandery for the past thirty-six years, is no more.

The teeming brain is still—the hand is powerless—M. E. Sir JOHN W. SIMONS departed this life on the 22d day of October, in his sixtieth year.

This does not seem to me the time, nor is it my province (that being the privilege of others), to pay a tribute to his memory.

It will ever be green in our hearts, and the remembrance of him is—naught but pleasant. Enemies he had none—Friends he had many—not only in this jurisdiction, but in all sections where the order of Knights Templar had an abiding-place.

DEATH OF SIR SIMONS.

Alas! we mourn with New York, in the loss they sustained by the death of Sir SIMONS. We knew him well for years, and even now we can hardly reconcile ourselves to the fact that his brain is still, and his hand powerless in death. His place among the corps reportorial will not soon be filled.

OPENING.

Sir ANTHONY, in his opening, says:

I have no apology to offer for the incompleteness of the work. As it is, with all its crudeness, I present it; asking only that leniency be exercised by those whose duty it is to inspect. As, possibly, the last work of his hands we present the (unfinished) introductory as prepared by our departed frater:

This report on correspondence is commended to the examination of the constituency as containing matters out of the usual course of events, and which it is desirable should be rightly understood in the interests of the order in general, and as affording an opportunity for placing the relations of the Grand Encampment and its subordinates upon a correct footing, so that in the future the arguments—if so they may be called—which for the past year have disturbed the general harmony, may disappear.

The committee step aside for a moment to call attention to the fact that in the various reports of the current year will be found a noteworthy exemplification of the excellent service to the order which has been and is being rendered by the various committees in the expression

of various shades of opinion, and a preparation of the general mind for a correct solution of the apparent difficulties of the situation.

In conclusion we repeat here a portion of last year's introductory, as voicing the last words of our departed frater to his associates:

While we may live to write other reports, or none at all, we cannot part with the Mutuals, to whom our heart is bound as with hooks of steel—we cannot take leave of them, we repeat—without expressing the kindest wishes for their welfare and that of their several constituencies.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan, for 1888, was reviewed by our lamented Sir Knight SIMONS prior to his death; we shall, therefore, quote largely from this report of our proceedings.

Of our Past Grand Master WILLIAMS, Sir SIMONS had this to say:

He is sound as a twenty-dollar gold-piece on the allegiance due the Grand Encampment and the ritual adopted and ordered to be observed by it. He had some little trouble at first, owing to a misapprehension of the law, but finally was able to announce: "I am pleased to report to this grand body that the subordinate commanderies within this jurisdiction have accepted the work as promulgated by the Grand Encampment."

He quotes the following from the decisions of Sir WILLIAMS:

1. A companion removes from this, to another grand jurisdiction, and there gains a residence, and now wishes to petition the commandery where he formerly lived.

Question. Can we receive the petition by getting the consent of the commandery where he now resides?

* * * * *

3. A member of a commandery (in good standing) recently died. After his death it comes to the knowledge of the Eminent Commander, and to the commandery, that the deceased had been suspended by his chapter for non-payment of dues,

Question. Is he entitled to the honor of a knightly burial?

Answer. Yes; when a Knight Templar is expelled or suspended by his lodge or chapter, the code requires that a proper certificate thereof be obtained, if practicable; and if not, that other evidence be produced to the commandery, showing the expulsion or suspension, before the commandery can declare him expelled or suspended. 1880 (see page 54, supplement to the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment).

And says:

We take objection to No. 1, on the general ground that every subordinate commandery is, and of right ought to be, the proper judge of its own material; that in a case like that submitted, the Grand Encampment requires only the consent of the subordinate having territorial jurisdiction—Const., Sec. 65. There may be a local statute in Michigan to the effect mentioned by the Grand Commander, but it is respectfully submitted that it is cumbersome and therefore needless.

As to No. 3, it is desired to remark that to us personally nothing can be more unmasonic, discourteous, and unknightly, than the penalty of suspension for non-payment of dues only. It is on a par with giving to a fine the same effect as imprisonment. After much thought and wrestling with old habits, New York has abandoned the practice.

UNIFORM.

Of the action had on the subject of uniform in our jurisdiction, Sir SIMONS says:

The subject was presented, read, learnedly discussed, and then laid over.

To which he adds: "Let it stay there, Sir Knight."

THANKS.

He has this to say of our report:

The report on correspondence is from the fertile pen of R. E. Sir WILLIAM P. INNES, Past Grand Commander, and covers some two hundred and fifty pages, which will secure it from any extended reading, except by gentlemen of elegant leisure; and yet it is real downright good and profitable, as this writer, who has traversed the same ground, can certify.

Entertaining a sincere admiration of, and strong friendship for, Sir INNES, his opening remarks are given that the reader may know what manner of man he is, and congratulate himself that the temptation to read has brought him in contact with so valiant a knight and so excellent a man. His opening remarks are reproduced.

New York for 1887 is given eighteen pages in much smaller type than we use, and a personal tribute is paid to his and our friend, the late ROBERT N. BROWN, Past Grand Commander. While we are flattered, we cannot imitate.

KENTUCKY.

Under Kentucky for 1888, Sir SIMONS says, while referring to the Grand Commander's address:

He seems to be a little shaky on the ritual, but will doubtless conform until the Grand Encampment can be persuaded to change its ideas.

This seems to be a good place for us to say or repeat, as the case may be, that stress is laid on the fact that when the ritual was adopted, a large number of the delegates were absent, which leads us to inquire where the fault lies? If, when the vote was taken, the representatives of Kentucky or any other State or States were absent, is there any good reason why the Grand Encampment should have delayed its business to because gentlemen and Sir Knights found it more convenient to attend to their private affairs than to the interests of the constituents they were sent by and paid for representing? For one, we are right glad the ritual was adopted just as it was, and trust that in future the national body will go on with its work as long as a quorum is present, and allow the absentees to growl to their heart's content and justify themselves to their constituents as best they may. At all events, we have a national ritual. If it can be made more perfect, so be it; but let us resolutely set our faces against a return to chaos and skating backward over the ground thus far happily attained, and likely to make sure our progress to greater and more solid prosperity in the future.

TENNESSEE.

Under Tennessee, he has this to say:

The feature of the conclave was the report of the committee on rituals of the Grand Encampment.

This is a remarkable document, couched in the most unexceptionable language, expressing none but the most loyal sentiments, yet it culminates in a resolution to the effect that, "we do hereby absolve our subordinates from the use of the rituals aforesaid, until the meeting of the Grand Encampment in 1889."

Now, please consider the situation.

The Grand Encampment is the supreme body; no other may review or endeavor to set aside its acts.

Every templar is bound by his vows to obey its edicts and decisions.

The Grand Encampment adopted a form of work, and ordered its promulgation.

Now, here is where the smile comes in.

Notwithstanding these positive and undisputed acts of the supreme authority, the Grand Commandery of Tennessee says to its subordinates, "We absolve you from obedience."

Perhaps in our helpless ignorance some one will tell us where Tennessee found the authority to set aside a positive order of the Grand Encampment? and when that is found, then let us be informed what the

Grand Encampment amounts to, if its subordinates at their pleasure can set its laws at defiance.

Complaint is made that even the right of objection is cut off. On the contrary, you all have the right of criticism, even protest; but see to it, brethren, that the procession be led by obedience.

We entertain no doubt that after consideration Tennessee will discover her mistake, and assume her proper place in line, but in the meanwhile consideration of the matter just discussed may be made profitable not only masonically, but in other relations of life.

HISTORICAL.

One of the features of the proceedings of this grand conclave, is the history of the origin of chivalry, and the orders of knighthood, written and submitted by Grand Recorder MACOV. We commend this history to our reading Sir Knights, with assurances that much information will be gained thereby, and light thrown on many a dark subject.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir AUSTIN C. WOOD, Syracuse, elected Grand Commander.

Sir ROBERT MACOV, Brooklyn, re-elected Grand Recorder.

NEW JERSEY.

THIRTIETH annual conclave was held in the city of Trenton, commencing May 8, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir CHARLES W. PRICE, Grand Commander.

Sir CHARLES BECHTEL, Grand Recorder.

Twelve subordinate commanderies represented. Ten Past Grand Commanders present.

Many of the latter were represented by proxy, which is New Jersey's peculiar style.

SAME OLD CHESTNUT.

The Grand Commander congratulates the subordinate commanderies on the compliance with general order No. 3, in regard to change in uniform, and says:

It is universally conceded to be a most pleasing change, and reflects great credit upon the able committee who designed it.

*This is the same old "chestnut" that the Grand Encamp-
ment* has struggled with so many years.

AN APPEAL.

The Grand Commander appeals in the following words to his Sir Knights:

Sir Knights, I now desire to briefly touch upon a subject which I am fully aware this grand body is unprepared to enter upon as yet. I allude to the establishment of a home for aged templars in this State.

Take the case of one of our number, a true and faithful knight, who having arrived at the age of three score and ten, when the clouds of adversity have gathered over him. Disaster overtakes him, and, through no fault of his own, becomes involved in financial ruin. Death takes from him all who are near and dear, and leaves him stranded alone, without means and unable, on account of increasing age, to begin again the battle of life. Then there should be a place to which he may turn and look for rest and comfort during the few remaining years of his pilgrimage. Not charity, Sir Knights, but rather a home, to which he may feel he has a right within the walls he has himself helped to rear, and under the protection and guardianship of his valiant and more fortunate companion Sir Knights. I sincerely hope that the thought will find a lodgment in your minds, and at some day, not far distant, bear fruit. When the proper time arrives the Sir Knights of this State will promptly respond and such a home be established. When we consider that so many of the secret orders and societies of to-day provide for their suffering members, by an endowment of some kind, and with us there is no such provision made, the worthy knight, who, in his prime, has labored faithfully and borne the heat and burden of the day, in his old age and the hour of his extremity finds no succor save such as may be doled out to him by the cold hand of charity.

THE RITUAL.

The committee to whom was referred that part of the Grand Commander's address relating to the ritual, and to

his general order No. 7, on the same subject, submitted the following report, which was adopted:

Your committee to whom was referred general order No. 7, respectfully report that the action of the Grand Commander in issuing said order be not concurred in. Your committee would further recommend that a committee be appointed to take said ritual into consideration and report such alterations, modifications or corrections as they shall deem best, and report the same to this body at the next annual conclave, and, if approved by this body, to be forwarded to the Grand Encampment of the United States, with a request that it be adopted at its conclave in 1889.

We are in hopes the able committee will put themselves in line with the other able advocates of this vexed question, and settle it, once and forever, at the coming meeting in Washington.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir CHARLES BECHTEL, for the committee on correspondence, submitted a report of thirty-six sister grand jurisdictions, Michigan for 1887 among the number.

OPENING.

In opening, he says:

In the following pages we have endeavored to place before the reader the most important items found in proceedings of the various jurisdictions (36) that have been received, and if we have succeeded in interesting the fraters of this Grand Commandery, we are content.

Various subjects have been discussed, but none more thoroughly than the adoption of the new ritual by the Grand Encampment. The views of its advocates and opponents are varied, and, for the most part, instructive, because in the opinion of some it is all that can be desired, while on the part of others it is "ungrammatical" and not up to their standard. But, with true loyalty to the Grand Encampment, nearly all of the Grand Commanderies are promulgating the ritual. That is as it should be.

We are sorry we cannot please all the reporters on correspondence, but we firmly believe in that good old saying, that "the man who tries to please everybody, pleases nobody."

ILLINOIS.

Under the review of Illinois, he says:

Sir Knight HUGH McCURDY, V. E. Grand Generalissimo, and R. E. Sir THEODORE S. PARVIN were received and welcomed by the Grand Commander. Of course Sir HUGH made one of his characteristic good speeches, and Sir PARVIN also had his say.

"OUR HUGH."

Under Michigan, Sir CHARLES says:

Sir HUGH McCURDY, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment, was present and received with the honors due his exalted rank. Sir HUGH always has a speech ready, and was not deficient on this occasion. Furthermore, he mostly always talks well.

Yes, "our HUGH" is always "loaded," and never misses the mark. With due deference to the many bright Templar minds, with which our land abounds, we place "our HUGH" at the front.

ENTITLED TO CREDIT.

Sir BECHTEL is entitled to much credit for the promptness with which these proceedings were gotten out. Nineteen days after adjournment of Grand Commandery, they were in our hands, and we only regret that the annual meetings of New Jersey and Michigan come so near together, that the proceedings have to be a year behind; but if they do not gain anything by age, they certainly lose nothing.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir ISAAC C. GITHENS, Camden, elected Grand Master.

Sir CHARLES BECHTEL, Trenton, re-elected Grand Recorder.



NORTH CAROLINA.

EIGHTH annual conclave was held in the city of Winston, commencing August 1, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir CARLE A. WOODRUFF, Grand Commander.

Sir HORACE H. MUNSON, Grand Recorder.

Seven subordinate commanderies represented. One Past Grand Commander present.

IN MEMORIAM.

Speaking of the deaths in his jurisdiction, the Grand Commander has this to say of Sir ROBERT HOUSTOUN ANDERSON, who died at his home in the city of Savannah, February 8, 1888:

Having had a personal acquaintance with General ANDERSON, I can testify to his high standing as an officer and a gentleman. He was graduated at West Point military academy, on July 1, 1857, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the 9th United States infantry, from which he resigned on May 17, 1861. He joined the confederate army, in which he served with distinction, attaining the rank of a general officer.

Upon the restoration of peace, his love for the old army and his devotion to his flag and country also returned. It was impossible for him to be restored to his former position in the United States army, but he had the satisfaction, before his death, of having his only son, bearing his own name (ROBERT H. ANDERSON, Jr.,) appointed a second lieutenant in his old regiment—the 9th United States infantry.

LOYAL TO THE RITUAL.

The Grand Commander, referring to the ritual, thus loyally speaks:

I am pleased to report that the Sir Knights of the Old North State, have cheerfully accepted the adopted ritual, and this Grand Commandery actually adopted this ritual two years before its final adoption by the

Grand Encampment and order for its promulgation. (See page 19, proceedings of 1884.)

This ritual may not be perfect, but any imperfections or omissions that may exist, can be corrected by proper legislation at the triennial conclaves of the Grand Encampment. It would indeed be difficult, if not impossible, to secure a ritual that would please every one of the 70,000 Sir Knights in this vast country; however, I am an advocate of uniformity, not only as regards ritual, but in all matters of interest to our order, as dress, tactics, etc.

In this I trust that I voice the sentiments of this Grand Commandery.

VISITATION.

Of his official visitations throughout the State, he thus says:

I found much to approve of, some things to correct, and had all of the officers been conversant with the authorized ritual, would have been more critical in my inspections, requiring the Eminent Commanders of each commandery to preside, instead of consenting to preside myself. However, my visits were more for the purpose of instruction and encouragement than for inspection.

I was pleased to find everywhere in this jurisdiction a disposition on the part of all Sir Knights to accept the ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment of the United States, and a desire to become proficient in all of its requirements.

I found that many Sir Knights did not appear in uniform. The statutes of this grand body require every Sir Knight to provide himself with a uniform.

Too much stress cannot be laid upon the importance of commanderies appearing in their asylums in proper uniform; a neglect of this is subversive of the interests of the order, as it begets a spirit of carelessness, which results in indifference and poor work.

I would suggest that this body set an example, by requiring its members to appear at this and all future conclaves, in templar uniform, full dress at the opening session, and un-dress at the subsequent sessions of the conclave, and that no Sir Knight be admitted to the grand asylum, unless so uniformed.

One other suggestion is prompted by my experience of the past year, namely: There should be no abridgment in the opening or closing of a commandery; the ceremonies should be in full, thereby creating interest in the order, and imparting instruction that may prove useful.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander, and approved :

1. That from an unaffiliated Sir Knight should be withheld the commission as a grand representative, he not being entitled to templar honors.

2. A quorum in Grand Commanderies and subordinate commanderies, as fixed by the statutes, consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an officer entitled to open the body. A quorum being present, the vote of a less number is valid. Consequently a less number than nine may confer the orders, after the commandery has been legally opened.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

He recommends that the commissions of grand representatives continue in force for only three years, and that all commissions expire with each triennial year.

NEXT TRIENNIAL.

On the next triennial conclave, he makes the following recommendations:

The next triennial conclave will be held in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, on the second Tuesday in October, 1889.

I would recommend that proper and immediate action be taken, not only towards securing a large representation from among the Sir Knights of North Carolina, but also to arrange for transportation, and suitable accommodations while in Washington.

I believe that at least one-fourth of the Sir Knights of this Grand Commandery, perhaps a much larger number, will attend.

I advise, nay urge, all to attend who can possibly do so; there will be much to interest and instruct them, besides having an opportunity to see assembled the largest number of valiant Sir Knights of our order known in the history of the world.

CONCLUSION.

The Grand Commander concludes his address as follows:

And in conclusion, Sir Knights, permit me to state, that it has been a matter of regret to me, that my duties as an officer of the United States army, and my remote military station, have prevented a more faithful discharge of my duty as your Grand Commander during the past year.

The trust you so generously bestowed upon me has been executed to the best of my ability, and my badge of office I now return to you, untarnished, I hope, and with it my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the officers and Sir Knights of this Grand Commandery for the courteous assistance they have rendered me, in the fulfillment of the duties of my office, and also do I desire to thank all Sir Knights throughout this jurisdiction for the knightly and courteous attention shown me.

My thanks are especially due our very efficient Grand Recorder, Eminent Sir H. H. MUNSON, Past Grand Commander, for his cheerful and prompt performance of all duty required of him, and also for the valuable assistance he has rendered me in the way of advice and counsel.

SUDDEN DEATH.

Shortly after adjournment of the Grand Commandery, we were apprised of the death of Eminent Sir FRANCIS H. GLOVER, Grand Generalissimo, who ended his earthly pilgrimage at his home in Charlotte, August 6, 1888, only four days after he had been elected to this honorable position by the Grand Commandery. What a lesson! Little did his friends, who then honored him with their votes, know that in a few short hours the dread mandate would be sent forth to strike him from the roll of human existence. Let us, also, be ready, for we know not the day nor the hour.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir GEORGE W. BLOUNT submitted the report on correspondence. It is a short yet very readable and interesting review of the proceedings of thirty-five Grand Commanderies. Michigan, 1888, has its place among the number. Sir BLOUNT is at least entitled to great praise for his power of condensation, he having occupied but nineteen pages in his able report.

MICHIGAN.

Of our proceedings, he has this to say:

With full corps of officers, and representatives from thirty-nine of the forty commanderies of the State, with fourteen past grand officers. Not a few of the commanderies represented by four and five of their officers. The first glance, looked like business—active, enthusiastic business. This, doubtless, encouraged the Grand Commander in the

delivery of his most admirable address. The whole of the proceedings showed spirit and zeal. Application for the formation of four new commanderies. The report on correspondence are a model of excellence in taste and knightly courtesy. The notice of our poor little commandery is specially pleasing to us, as large extracts is made from the address of our Grand Commander, and touching notice given to our past most excellent chairman. The general make up of the printed proceedings is exquisitely tasteful, in arrangement and typographical execution. Every lagging, despondent commandery in our jurisdiction, would do well to get a copy, and study and receive fresh inspiration. It is with regret that more extended notice cannot be made.

CONCLUSION.

We give in full his conclusion, as it shows Sir BLOUNT to be a true and courteous knight, full of knightly sympathy and feeling:

In concluding this report, I must beg the indulgence of this Grand Commandery on my "prenticed hand," and ask in palliation of shortcomings, my secluded retreat and deprivation of association with fraters of age, erudition and experience, and specially of the assistance of the veteran reporter, E. JAMES SOUTHGATE, who has been hindered by his own failing health, and afflictions in his family.

I have purposely omitted to make extracts more at length from the reports of other reporters, and addresses of Grand Commanders, because of the known paucity of means to print, and in some cases of the indifference of the Sir Knights assembled in Grand Commandery, to hear read the report of the committee on correspondence, yet, I am free to say, "though I say it myself, who ought not to say it," that time spent in the hearing of even so poor a report as the one now presented, would be well and wisely spent. Teaching by the wise precepts of our magnanimous order, so fraught with the wisdom that maketh wise unto salvation, is not to be undervalued or in any way omitted. Nor should we neglect that which comes of example, and the example of our fraters scattered over the length and breadth of this goodly land of ours, bound together by the sacred ties and of association in rites, the most holy, commemorating events, the most important in life. I have derived profit and a most indescribable pleasure from the review of the works of our sister grand bodies, and can now, at the close of my labor, deplore how poorly I have been able to impart the lessons learned and to depict the pleasure I have enjoyed. We have somewhere the teaching (most every knight will recall when and where learned:) "That our ancient brethren received their wages in corn, wine and oil." I can truly say mine have

been in "the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment and the oil of joy." But for the benefit of the craft in general, and some other frater in particular, I will say I will not selfishly ask for re-appointment to the office which I have found pays so unstintedly the earnest worker in its mines. May the spirit of grace take the teaching of our order, and make them the savor of life unto life to all who come within its folds, and are bound together by our most solemn obligations. "May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us."

A CONFIDENTIAL WHISPER.

For the information of Sir BOWEN, of Nebraska, we want to whisper, confidentially, in his ear, that Sir BLOUNT calls himself, in opening, "chairman committee on fraternal relations." You see, Sir BOWEN, that don't change the gender, if it does the name.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JOHN A. PORTER, Asherville, elected Grand Commander.

Sir HORACE H. MUNSON, Wilmington, re-elected Grand Recorder.

OHIO.

FORTY-SIXTH annual conclave was held in the city of Cleveland, commencing August 28, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir FREDERICK H. REHWINKEL, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN N. BELL, Grand Recorder.

Forty-three subordinate commanderies represented.
Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

THE ILLUSTRIOUS DEAD.

The Grand Commander notices the fact that over half a hundred friends and cherished knights have died during the past year, three of whom were Past Eminent Commanders.

THE OHIO IDEA.

A large portion of the Grand Commander's address is taken up in a review of documents in the shape of appeals, and action taken by the Grand Commandery on the "Ohio idea of templarism."

In speaking of one of these documents the Grand Commander says: "It is a legal curiosity, remarkable for the astuteness and legal-twisting ability displayed in its production, and lacking only in honest, straightforward interpretation of templar law."

A "PILGRIM PENITENT."

He recommends to the mercy of the Grand Commandery a "most penitent pilgrim penitent," who appears in former days to have incurred the displeasure of himself and the Grand Commandery, but who lately had repented, and in summing up the matter he says:

In view of the fact that insubordination and rebellion are thoroughly subdued in this grand jurisdiction, and the authority and dignity of the Grand Commander fully vindicated, it would seem that magnanimous measures were now wise, and that such would be productive of lasting benefit to our well beloved order.

Take this last sentence in connection with the "astuteness and legal-twisting ability" of the first quotation, and it makes queer masonic literature for Ohio. How long, oh Lord! how long?

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander, and approved by the committee on jurisprudence:

Question. What is the status of an Eminent Commander who has been suspended from office by a R. E. Grand Commander, whose action is approved by the Grand Commandery and ordered to be continued, with further directions that charges and specifications be preferred against the Eminent Sir, and that he be legally tried thereupon. Is he, or is he not, a Past Eminent Commander?

Answer. The M. E. Grand Master decides that until he is tried and convicted of the offense with which he stands charged, his status remains unimpaired. He is, therefore, a Past Eminent Commander.

The next question calling for special notice referred to the proper procedure in enforcing the payment of dues and subsequent punishment of persistent delinquents. That the points may be well understood, I give the action of the commandery in which the question was raised.

At a stated conclave in November, 1887, several Sir Knights were ordered to be dropped from the roll, by the Eminent Commander, for non-payment of dues. The commandery at this time fixed upon the stated conclave of April, 1888, for the payment of these arrearages. On the convening of the commandery in April, a further extension of time was granted, or until the stated conclave in July. Due official notice having been served upon the delinquents on each occasion, the question is:

Does not the failure to pay, or the showing of any cause why it was not done, constitute the charge, and cannot the commandery at its July conclave proceed to trial, and vote on the penalty, without any further charge or summons in the cases than that contained in the notices already sent out?

Answer. No Knight Templar can be lawfully suspended from the rights and privileges of masonic knighthood, or expelled from its orders, without due trial and conviction, which must be in strict conformity with the "forms for templar trials," as promulgated by M. E. VINCENT L. HURLBUT, Past Grand Master, in general order No. 3, and approved by the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Question. Is there any way in which a petition for the orders of knighthood can be withdrawn unballoted upon?

Answer. A petition once received by a commandery, unless faulty in form or otherwise irregular, cannot be withdrawn by the petitioner under any circumstances, but must be disposed of by ballot.

RETURNED HIS COMMISSION.

The grand representative of Iowa near the Grand Commandery of Ohio, owing to a *slight misunderstanding* between Iowa Grand Commandery and the Grand Encampment, resigned his office and returned his commission to the Grand Commandery of Iowa.

Great men sometimes commit great actions. What the result will be of severing these great relations between the States most concerned nothing but time can tell.

RULES FOR ELECTION.

The following recommendation for conducting election of grand officers was adopted by the Grand Commandery, and made to take immediate effect:

1. All knights entitled to vote, either in person or by proxy, shall, before the close of the first day's session of the Grand Commandery, report their presence and file their proxies with the Grand Recorder, who shall make up a complete list of all members present who are entitled to vote, and the number of votes to which they are respectively entitled.
2. The Grand Recorder shall place this list in the hands of the tellers previous to the beginning of the election.
3. Each Sir Knight shall cast each vote to which he is entitled to on a separate ballot.
4. Previous to depositing his ballot, each knight shall call to the tellers—
 1. The number of his commandery.
 2. His name and the number of votes he proposes to cast.
5. The tellers shall thereupon verify the Sir Knight's vote by reference to the list furnished, as above, by the Grand Recorder, and, if correct, shall receive and deposit his ballots; but if not, shall cause the same to be first corrected.
6. The votes of the grand and past grand officers present shall be collected by the Grand Warder, and by him deposited in the ballot box.

We think the "Australian system" would be an improvement on the above. Michigan Sir Knights need no watching in this direction.

HONORARY MEMBER.

Sir Knight Possons, Past Eminent Commander of Salem-town commandery, No. 16, located at Auburn, New York, now affiliated with Holyrood commandery, No. 32, stationed at Cleveland, was unanimously elected a member of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Ohio.

A "HEALTHY" APPROPRIATION.

An appropriation of \$3,000 was made to cover the triennial conclave expenses.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT.

The following report from the committee on correspondence was adopted, as the report says, without dissent:

The committee on foreign correspondence, to whom was referred the communication of Eagle Commandery complaining of the action of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, in unjustly reflecting upon said commandery for its action in relation to the expenses incurred by said commandery in the funeral of Sir EDWARD KELLY, Grand Captain-General of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, recommend that the communication as revised by the committee, which is a complete history of the circumstances of the case referred to, and a vindication of the commandery, be printed in the proceedings.

A VIGOROUS PROTEST.

We give in full the protest of Eagle commandery, No. 29, and can only say that Michigan has nothing to take back on the subject. The action of our Grand Commandery was taken after calm and deliberate consideration; the report was made by one whose judgment cannot be questioned, and whose love of right none can excel, and we stand by Past Grand Commander SPAULDING and his report, at the same time recording ourselves upon all and every occasion ready to do our duty in the direction indicated. We believe there is a difference between bombast and knightly courtesy. The question of veracity that arises between the two reports we do not desire to discuss, for to do that would require a reopening of this entire case, which we hope, from now on, will be as a sealed book:

The officers and members of Eagle Commandery, No. 29, of your jurisdiction, feel aggrieved and insulted by the proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Michigan at its session in 1887, which are found copied into the report of your committee on foreign correspondence of the same year, on pages 94 and 95, and which they are informed have been copied into the report of Tennessee and perhaps other States. The published report of your committee is the first notice which this Commandery had of the obnoxious action of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, and indeed the first notice which it had of any dissatisfaction with the knightly honors conferred by this Commandery upon the distinguished

officer and frater of that grand body, or that the same were regarded as too elaborate or expensive.

Believing this to be the proper course, at the first opportunity we enter our earnest protest against the injustice done us by the Grand Commandery of Michigan, and pray this grand body to investigate the matter in question, and if we are found in fault, we pledge ourselves as loyal templars to abide censure or reproof, and if we are found not deserving censure, then we pray the Grand Commandery of Ohio to vindicate us in such proper and knightly manner as it may deem expedient, from the dishonor cast upon us by the Grand Commandery of Michigan.

That the Grand Commandery of Ohio may not be uninformed, we make the following statement of facts relating to the matter:

On December 10, 1886, Sir Knight EDWARD W. KELLY, then Grand Captain-General of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, died suddenly at the house of a friend in Painesville. Sir KELLY had formerly lived in this vicinity, had frequently visited our commandery, and was well known to us and to this community generally, as a worthy, eminent and zealous Knight Templar.

The fact of his death was immediately telegraphed to R. E. Sir WILLIAM S. LAWRENCE, Grand Commander of the State of Michigan, and the following answer was received:

KALAMAZOO, MICH., Dec. 12, 1886.

Eminent Commander Eagle Commandery, K. T., Painesville, Ohio:

Fearing I shall be unable by pressing engagements to attend the funeral of Eminent Sir KELLY, please carry out the wishes of the family as far as consistent, and report the necessary expenses to me, and oblige,

Fraternally,

WILLIAM S. LAWRENCE,
Grand Commander.

On the evening of the next day we received the following dispatch:

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., Dec. 12, 1886.

To Eminent Commander and Members of Painesville Commandery, K. T.:

Our Grand Commandery leaves the mortal remains of our beloved Captain-General, Sir Knight KELLY, in your hands, wishing your kindly services on their behalf, and join in sincere condolence to his friends and family. A courteous knight and fraternal brother, our jurisdiction at large mourns his loss.

WILLIAM P. INNES,

Grand Recorder.

In a letter to R. E. Sir L. F. LYTTLE the R. E. Grand Commander of Michigan says he "requested Eagle Commandery to carry out the wishes of the family as far as possible."

Many of us knew from Sir KELLY's public declarations that when he died he desired to be buried with full templar honors, and band music, and when his widow arrived in Painesville she expressed the same desire, and further desired that the remains should lie in state at the Episcopal Church, in charge of a guard of honor for the period of six hours before the funeral, and that a portion of the Episcopal Church service should be read over the remains.

Eagle Commandery has been accustomed since its first organization to bury its own deceased members in this manner, and we had no suspicion that the Grand Commandery of Michigan begrudged its Grand Captain-General the expenses of a respectable funeral according to the usages of the templar order. His widow informed us that he had often told her that in case of his death, his Grand Commandery would provide for his burial in a style becoming his rank in the order, and she desired his wishes carried out. Had she expected otherwise she would have buried him privately, according to her means.

It is not true that "Mrs. KELLY objected to any unusual expense, but was overruled by the Painesville knights," for Mrs. KELLY all the time believed that the Grand Commandery of Michigan expected, and desired, to bury its deceased grand officer with the usual templar honors. If he was to be buried as a private citizen, why were his remains left with us as templars, and our services requested by the Grand Commandery of Michigan?

In the face of these dispatches it can not be maintained that we officiously meddled with the matter without request or authority, or violated confidence.

It is not insinuated that any bills were sent that were not actually paid by this commandery, but the complaint is, that we made the funeral of their beloved officer and frater too elaborate and expensive.

In Ohio it is the custom of the country among Knights Templar to bury distinguished knights in caskets. (The custom may be otherwise in Michigan.) Mrs. KELLY and the officers of Eagle Commandery selected and ordered a casket suitable to Sir KELLY's rank and station. We then expected that the Grand Commandery of Michigan would be present or be represented at the funeral, and we did not desire to have them put to shame by seeing their beloved officer's remains in a pauper's box.

It is usual in this jurisdiction for casket and carriages to be paid for from the estate of the deceased, but if there is no estate, this commandery has never permitted a widow or orphans to be pinched for the payment for a casket, or carriages for the burial of a Knight Templar.

In this case the widow informed us, and we believe it to be true,

that she was absolutely unable to pay these expenses, and we therefore paid them.

Complaint is made of the expense for flowers. It is true that Eureka Commandery sent a floral design beautiful in itself, but when placed upon the coffin so manifestly insufficient, that the widow requested that additional flowers should be procured, and they were accordingly bought and paid for.

We received notice on the morning of the funeral, that the Grand Commandery of Michigan had sent a floral offering (and it may have been so beautiful that it challenged the admiration of some country editor in Michigan,) but large bodies move slowly, and so deliberate were the Michigan Grand Commandery, that their beautiful floral offering to their beloved frater arrived just twenty-four hours after his body was committed to the tomb.

No complaint is made of the band or their expenses. We know it was expensive, but it was the best we could do at the time.

The telegraphing was done in negotiating for a band, conferring with R. E. Sir LA FAYETTE LYTTLE in procuring his attendance to act as Prelate, and in notifying our own members.

For the honor of the order we desired a decent attendance in numbers. Our members are scattered. After the time for the funeral was fixed, the time was short, and it was necessary to use the telegraph in giving notice.

Ten dollars was paid for vocal music because it is the custom of the country at all funerals, masonic and others, to have a special choir, and ten dollars is the standing price.

The ten dollars charged as paid Prelate, was not paid to our Prelate, nor to R. E. Sir LYTTLE, (who officiated as Prelate at the funeral by Sir KELLY's request, made long before,) but it was paid to Rev. W. H. GALLAGHER, an Episcopal clergyman, not a mason, who courteously opened his church for our frater's funeral, and as a clergyman assisted us, and read so much of the church service as was desired by the widow, over the remains.

In this anti-masonic community it is not every church that will be opened for a masonic funeral. The ten dollars was not paid under any contract, but was given as a gratuity in consideration and recognition of the courteous service rendered, and the use of the church. We could not decently offer a less sum.

The Grand Commandery of Michigan, through the adopted report of its committee, say they are not informed by what authority these things were done. If they had done us the honor (which they did not) to inquire of us by letter or otherwise, at any time after the expenses

were incurred, we would have courteously explained to them the necessity and propriety of each item of the expense. We would have shown them the dispatches hereinbefore quoted conferring upon us express authority to bury their frater. Ought we to have understood from those dispatches that we were to bury the fourth Grand Officer of the Grand Commandery of Michigan in any other than a knightly manner and style?

"The whole grand jurisdiction of Michigan mourned the death of their beloved Grand Captain-General." They were six hours ride away, and so pressing were the engagements of all this grand body, that not one could leave to make preliminary arrangements for his funeral, console his widow, or stand beside his coffin when it was lowered into the grave. Five members of his subordinate commandery, Eureka, were present, but no representative of his Grand Commandery.

Neither could the Grand Commander, in all the State of Michigan, "find a suitable Knight Templar to represent the Grand Commander at the funeral."

Loving Grand Commandery, but oh, how busy! Rumor informs us that the pressing engagement of the R. E. Grand Commander was a social party of unusual magnitude that required his presence.

How should such busy templars be expected to be informed about the expenses of their frater's funeral.

The grand officers had turned the remains of their beloved grand officer over to the knights of a sister jurisdiction for burial, and nothing remained for the Grand Commandery of Michigan to do, except to higgle over his funeral expenses.

We plead guilty to having sent forward the bills in a prompt and business like way in December soon after the funeral, and from that time to the 22d of April, 1887, four months and over, a most eloquent and knightly silence prevailed. No acknowledgement of their receipt was ever sent, although we wrote twice, modestly asking if they were received; and still no answer came. No inquiry was ever made of us by the R. E. Grand Commander of Michigan, nor by the committee of its Grand Commandery, nor by any other person, about these expenses, nor was any suggestion ever made to us by any person in any way, that these charges were improper, extravagant, or ought not to have been made. After four months of this knightly silence, we received a draft for the money paid out by us, but no acknowledgment of services rendered.

We knew Sir KELLY and respected him, and had we known of the poverty or parsimony of his Grand Commandery, we would have hon-

ored his memory, and his remains with templar burial just the same at our own expense, and had no question over the cost of it.

Respectfully submitted,

EAGLE COMMANDERY, No. 29, K. T.,
Stationed at Painesville, Ohio.

Approved and ordered by the commandery, July 9, 1888.

H. H. COE, *Recorder*.

[SEAL.]

THAT EDICT.

Sir CARSON, for the committee on correspondence, submitted the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

The committee on foreign correspondence, to whom was referred that portion of the R. E. Grand Commander's address relating to the edict of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and the letter of R. E. CLARK VARNUM, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Iowa, and the printed circular on the same subject, issued by that Grand Commandery in opposition to the decree of the Grand Master; also the circular issued by the Grand Commandery of Iowa, asking that said circular be presented and read in the Grand Commanderies of the United States, and asking them to withhold judgment and action upon the action of the Grand Commandery of Iowa until she can be heard, and other documents relating to the same subject; and the letter of the R. E. Grand Commander of Ohio in reply to R. E. Grand Commander CLARK VARNUM, of Iowa, recommend that the communication and circular of the Grand Commandery of Iowa be not printed in our proceedings. We find that the letter of the Grand Commander of Ohio, in reply to the Grand Commander of Iowa, is a most appropriate and complete rejoinder to the arguments presented in the circular and letter of the Grand Commander of Iowa, and we recommend that said letter be printed in the proceedings. And inasmuch as it has been decided by this Grand Commandery that the issuing of controversial circulars by its subordinates, is improper and prohibited, and believing that the same rule should apply to incendiary circulars issued by Grand Commanderies, in opposition to the Grand Encampment of the United States, therefore, said documents should not and will not receive any favorable consideration by this grand body.

Sir VARNUM, did you hear something "drap?" In the future remember Ohio is not to be trifled with—it permits of no rebellion; it is loyal to the core.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Knight CARSON submits the report on correspondence. It is CARSON's, and that is enough. Would that his pen could, in many cases, be made to follow the dictates of his kind heart. We believe Sir CARSON to be a good hearted fellow, but his pen sometimes gets away with him. Woe be to the knight that differs with Sir CARSON; his pen goes for him without regard for feelings, yet we believe his heart, many and many a time, rebels when he sees what his pen has done.

IOWA.

His report would not be complete if he did not have something to say under Iowa, as the following will show:

It would only have been a fair statement if Grand Commander DEWEY had told the whole story and said, that during all these years Sir BOWER, of Iowa, was chairman of the committee, and that during the next three years, when this committee appears to have dropped into oblivion, the lamented BOWER died, and the committee was without a head.

In 1883, at San Francisco, Grand Master DEAN submitted a manuscript ritual of the Knights Templar and Knights of the Red Cross, and the committee, upon examination of that ritual, reported that they regarded it as the true ritual of the Order of the Temple and the Red Cross, and recommended that the committee be authorized and instructed to revise and arrange said ritual in dramatic form, with proper rubrics, adapting it for practical use in the conferring of the orders, and that they be authorized to have the same printed in proper form, bound, etc. The recommendation was adopted by the Grand Encampment, and the committee was continued until the next triennial, when they were to submit the ritual for consideration by the Grand Encampment.

Sir DEWEY says: "The committee appears to have continued its duties, and agreeable to the letter of the law, caused to be printed and published(1) the ritual so claimed(1) to have been adopted."

Here we join issues with Grand Commander DEWEY as to the facts. It is not true that the committee "published" the ritual. For the definition of published we beg to refer Iowa to any ordinary English dictionary. If the rituals have been published it has been done by some one else than the committee.

Sir DEWEY lays great stress upon the assumption that the ritual was not constitutionally adopted, alleging that the proposed change of ritual (!) was not printed in the summons sent out four months before the meeting of the Grand Encampment. The object of the notice in the summons is to give notice to the members of any proposed change in the constitution or ritual. Sir DEWEY himself reports that the ritual subject had been before the Grand Encampment from 1874. Certainly this was notice sufficient to the members that the ritual subject was pending before the Grand Encampment.

Could anything be more absurd or contrary to the spirit of masonry than to have done what Sir DEWEY claims ought to have been done? That is to have printed the ritual subject in the summons. Certainly that would have been "publishing the ritual" with a vengeance, and that is the logic of Sir DEWEY's argument. To have complied with what he claims was necessary, the Recorder should have printed the entire ritual with the summons!

We submit still another argument against Sir DEWEY's proposition. The constitution says (section 67): That any member intending to submit a motion relative to a change of the constitution, statutes, or rituals shall give notice thereof in writing to the Grand Recorder at least four months before the day on which the grand conclave shall be held, at which such subject is to be discussed, and notice thereof shall be inserted in the summons, otherwise no such notice shall be entertained.

Now we submit this query to the Iowa lawyers: Was any proposed change of ritual presented or pending in the Grand Encampment of the United States? In the classic language of Captain CUTTLE, "Overhaul your catechism, and when found make a note on it." And if our Iowa pundits find that there was any change of ritual proposed or pending, will they please inform us what ritual it was that was proposed to be changed?

Sir DEWEY says: "I wish to protest, for upon examination I find the most flagrant assumption by our Grand Encampment."

We are of the opinion that before this question is settled, Sir DEWEY will come to the conclusion that he has located the flagrant assumption in the wrong place. He says, "The proceedings of 1886 are silent as to any summons of the character of ritual changes; hence no Knight Templar can fail to assert that the entire action pertaining to the new ritual is and must be null and void."

"Oh, most wise and learned judge! A second DANIEL has come to judgment."

Sir DEWEY says when the ritual was presented to him, printed in

the most bold, public and disgusting manner, it at once became repulsive to every Iowa knight.

"Oh, bother the flowers that bloom in the spring!" Because Sir DEWEY's very delicate stomach was riled, forsooth, he modestly presumes that the stomach of every Knight Templar in Iowa was disturbed. The fact is that all this clamor about the ritual having been irregularly adopted is only a claptrap, and the arguments are mere pettifogging quibbles.

MICHIGAN.

We congratulate ourselves that under the review of Michigan, Sir CARSON has passed us over lightly. We quote from his report as follows:

Sir INNES weeps bitter tears over the sad condition of affairs in our State, and laments in most pathetic terms that the templars of Ohio have apparently forgotten to practice the principles inculcated in every line and every precept of their duty as templar masons.

One might suppose from reading Sir INNES' templar literature that he was a camomile tea soldier, but everybody who knows him, knows that he is anything else than that.

But he is in favor of peace at any price and at any sacrifice.

He makes a lengthy quotation from our report, warning his readers, however, that they must not confound this report with that of a Scottish rite report.

Thanks, Sir INNES, for these words of warning, for what can a Knight Templar know about the Scottish rite? We presume this is what is the matter with Sir INNES. If he hadn't so much more avoirdupois templar than he has of the Scottish rite, he might know something about the latter.

Bad world, Sir INNES.

CONCLUSION.

Without apology, we give his conclusion:

"The long day's task is done,
And we must sleep."

We have noticed the printed proceedings of twenty-eight templar grand bodies, all that had been received by us when we indited the preliminary page to our report.

The following grand bodies had not then been heard from: Alabama, Canada, Kansas, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, and Wisconsin. One or two of these proceedings have reached us since, but too late to be inserted in their place in our report.

Reviewing the whole field for the past year, there are but three

subjects that appear to have quite generally engaged the attention of the Grand Commanderies; these were: tactics and drill, the ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment of the United States, and preparations for attending the triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment in Washington next year.

We think that we discover a falling off in tactics and drill literature. There appears to be an awakening at last in the order, to the fact that there should be, that there is, something higher and of greater importance to its welfare, perpetuity and honor, than being merely accomplished in the art of marching and countermarching. We think that the hot competition we are having in the art of tactics and drill and street parades, by the uniformed Knights of Pythias, uniformed order of Odd Fellows, and the numerous orders of uniformed Catholic knights, is having a wholesome effect upon our order, and a strong conservative feeling is being developed, that we should devote more attention to the teachings and philosophy of our order, and very much less to public displays.

We must not be understood as deprecating all public display, but we are now, as we have always been, opposed to making tactics and drill and public display the predominating feature of our stately and solemn order. We are in favor, when invited to do so, of going with the Master Masons upon all proper masonic occasions in public display. We hope the time is not far distant when the craze in our order for tactics and drill will have

"Gone glimmering through the dream of things that were."

The ritual subject has made a slight ripple upon the surface of the great sea of harmony of the order. The jurisdictions generally accepted and cheerfully conform to it. It is not the ritual, to the dotting of an "I" or the crossing of a "T," that any one of them had. In every substantial particular and ceremony they find but little, if any, addition or change. To be sure some of the grand bodies suggest that changes should be made; however, there are no two of the bodies, so far as we know, that agree as to what the changes shall be, therefore it will be extremely difficult to have any made, even though apparently necessary. There appears to have been very general congratulation and satisfaction expressed by a great majority of the Grand Commanderies, that we had at last a uniform ritual or ceremonial for the entire jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

Two of the Grand Commanderies (Iowa and Tennessee) were in actual rebellion against the law of the Grand Encampment; another, (Mississippi,) through its Grand Commander, is also in rebellion, another

came very near it, but wisely, masonically adopted their "second thought," instead of the first.

Tennessee, acting upon sober, second thought, as we have said in our report, rescinded its action, and now conforms to the law of the Grand Encampment. The Grand Recorder of that body informs the templar world that the rescinding was not a second thought, but it was simply to comply with the order of the Grand Master, which was regarded as binding, but the action of the Grand Encampment was not binding, as its action in regard to the ritual was unconstitutional. This explanation is worthy of a police court barrister, and is so accepted. We venture to make the prediction that the Grand Commandery of Tennessee will honorably acquit herself of the mistake that she was *led* (?) into, and will not attempt to evade the responsibility by pleading any namby-pamby excuse. Her members will say, we did what is charged, we erred, under Grand Master Roome's order, we reconsidered our erroneous action, and since then we have conformed to, and will continue to conform to, the laws, and be faithful to our templar vows to the Grand Encampment of the United States. With this the trouble will end.

One of the critics of the ritual says that the ritual, as submitted and read by the committee to the Grand Encampment at St. Louis, was so altered and changed during the reading that it could not be recognized, etc., etc.

In the name of that committee, and as chairman of it, we say that this statement is unqualifiedly false! We have now lying before us our copy of the ritual as submitted to the Grand Encampment, with all the changes that were made in it during its reading and consideration by the Grand Encampment. In the ceremonial proper there were but few changes made by the Grand Encampment, and scarcely any of importance. The committee submitted the ritual, so far as the ceremony was concerned, in its integrity, as they found it in the manuscript submitted to them for dramatizing, etc. There was no opening or closing ceremonies in that manuscript. Those, together with the rubric, throughout, were supplied by the committee. They were not taken from any one ritual, but from several, principally, however, from that in use in Massachusetts.

If our life and health is spared us, we hope to be present in the Grand Encampment in Washington in 1889, and we will be fortified with the ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT, referred to the committee, also, with the ORIGINAL PRINTED COPY, as submitted by the committee to the Grand Encampment, with the ALTERATIONS, etc., in it IN PENCIL, as first made by the committee itself, and the very few subse-

quently made by order of the Grand Encampment. With these documents and our power of speech still left us, we know that we shall be able to vindicate the committee from the charges that a few malaperts have openly made and insinuated against it. We will show that the ritual was presented to the Grand Encampment without a single material addition or amendment by the committee.

The Grand Commanderies are taking action in regard to securing headquarters, entertainment, etc., etc., at the triennial conclave in Washington City.

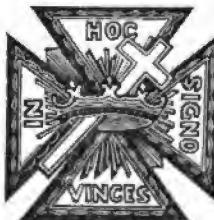
We have no doubt but what that conclave will excel in the number of templars who will be present and participate in its festivities and display, any of the triennial pageants that have yet occurred. The meeting is at the national capital; there is more to be seen there to interest a patriotic national American than any other place in the world. Thousands of our younger templars have never visited the capital; they will avail themselves of this occasion, when low excursion rates will undoubtedly prevail, to see the capital of their own loved country, and at the same time contribute their individual share to the grandest, largest, and most imposing templar pageant that has ever occurred.

Once more, and for the thirteenth time, we give our parting salutation to our brethren, "Peace on earth to men of good will." Our work for 1888 is done.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir WILLIAM T. WALKER, Toledo, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN N. BELL, Dayton, re-elected Grand Recorder.



OREGON.

SECOND annual conclave was held in the city of Portland, commencing October 9, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir JAMES F. ROBINSON, Grand Commander.

Sir FRELON J. BABCOCK, Grand Recorder.

Three subordinate commanderies represented.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander opens his address to his young charge, as follows:

It is with feelings of gratitude that I acknowledge the knightly courtesy and confidence which at our last grand conclave caused you to re-elect me to the highly honorable position of R. E. Grand Commander of our jurisdiction.

In assuming this exalted station, it was with the full knowledge that your act was more of a personal compliment than for any superior fitness or special executive ability I possessed.

And while acknowledging this (to me) very pleasing compliment, and giving to you a knightly welcome to this our second annual conclave, let us not forget to return thanks to the Grand Master of the Universe for the many blessings so bounteously bestowed on this the most western outpost of Christian knighthood.

It is but a few years, since four Eminent Sirs, R. P. EARHART, F. N. SHURTLEFF, F. J. BABCOCK and myself, planted the templar banner on the northwest coast, hoping that in time the acquisitions to our ranks would be sufficient to make a numerically respectable commandery, and the benefits of the templar order be extended.

I am pleased to announce, that our hopes and most sanguine expectations have been more than realized.

From this small beginning there has grown up three commanderies, all prosperous and with a goodly membership of true and courteous Sir Knights, and a Grand Commandery whose members, from their well known zeal in the good work, furnish the assurance that in the near

future the Grand Commandery of Oregon, although among the youngest, will not be the least in point of members, or extent of knightly courtesies to our fraters of other jurisdictions.

INTERDICTION OF TEMPLAR INTERCOURSE.

He reports to his Commandery the receipt from the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the edict of interdiction of all templar intercourse between the Grand Commandery of Iowa, and all Sir Knights in its obedience, and the loyal Knights Templar of the United States, and says that in compliance with said edict he issued a general order prohibiting all Sir Knights in his jurisdiction from holding intercourse with the Sir Knights of Iowa. Sir ROBINSON, you are on the safe side, if not ultimately on the winning side.

The Grand Commander says that at the last conclave, owing to their youth, he thought best to omit the appointment of a committee on correspondence, but recommends the appointment of said committee by his successor, and which recommendation, we were glad to see, was concurred in.

THE RITUAL DIFFICULTY.

Sir SILAS M. YORAN presented a copy of the edict of the Grand Master, together with orders issued by the Grand Commander of Iowa, also personal correspondence and parts of the forthcoming annual address of the Grand Commander, giving a full and complete understanding of matters pertaining to the difficulties existing between our fraters in Iowa and the Grand Master of Knights Templar. He then offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were, on motion, adopted:

WHEREAS, On May 28, A. D. 1888, an edict was issued by Sir CHARLES ROOME, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, suspending all knightly intercourse between all grand and subordinate commanderies, holding charters under the Grand Encampment, with the Grand Commandery of Iowa, and all Sir Knights in its obedience; therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of Iowa, in obedience to

the edict of our Grand Master, will continue to own allegiance to the Grand Encampment, and trust in the wisdom and justice characteristic of templarism, to affect a just and impartial adjustment of the matter in issue between our fraters in Iowa and the Grand Master.

Resolved, That we believe it to be the duty of the highest tribunal of our order to faithfully try the cause that lies at the foundation of this controversy, and to render a verdict in accordance with strict judicial fairness; that whoever may be in error may receive correction in a court composed of equals, who will ever be willing to advise the erring of his faults.

Resolved, further, That until this unfortunate controversy is disposed of, and all our disabilities thereby removed, we will continue without prejudice toward either party, to practice the virtues of templarism, and extend the hand of congratulation when the reunion of all subordinate jurisdictions becomes established.

DISPENSATION REFUSED.

The request for a new commandery at Ashland, in the southern part of the State, was refused, as the committee did not believe the time had arrived for granting such dispensation, although fully sympathizing with the petitioners.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No report on correspondence.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR, Dayton, elected Grand Commander.

Sir FRELON J. BABCOCK, Salem, re-elected Grand Recorder.



PENNSYLVANIA.

THIRTY-FIFTH annual conclave was held in the city of Pittsburgh, commencing May 22, A. D. 1888, A. O. 771.

Sir LEE H. SMITH, Grand Commander.

Sir CHARLES E. MEYER, Grand Recorder.

Fifty-nine subordinate commanderies represented. Six Past Grand Commanders present.

FROM THE LAND OF "OAT CAKES."

We notice the Eminent Commander of Canton commandery, No. 64, spells his name JOHN A. INNES. We bet on the name, if not on the man, and we take chances on the latter, too, for doubtless his "aunt's sisters," like those of the writer, came from the land of "oat cakes." Scotch, we presume.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander, in his address, says:

Had I been content with merely performing the official duties devolving upon this office I would have been false to my vows, not only of office but of knighthood as well.

Accepting the duties laid down in our ritual as having a meaning and intent, and my vows of office as binding, I have honestly tried to carry out the spirit as well as the letter of my duties by teaching the Word, and striving, by example as well as by precept, that the spiritual character of the order should take at least one step upward, sowing the seeds of truth, praying God's blessing on the harvest.

No member of our order loves or enjoys the social features of the same more than do I; but in reality we are only fitted to enjoy life truly and in all its fullness when we are living proper lives and doing good to others.

There may be members of the order attracted to it by its glitter and show, who think only of having a good time, and heeding not its moral character; if so, it should be our special aim to teach them its higher and nobler privileges.

Were the question propounded to each member of the order, "Do you believe in God and the divinity of CHRIST?" I doubt not the answer would be, yes, I believe, for everything in our order is founded on that belief. Then comes the all-important question: Is such a belief, of itself, sufficient? To obtain an answer, let us consult the word of GOD. Listen to CHRIST's words to those following Him and calling Him LORD: "Why call ye me LORD, LORD, and do not the things which I say?" This answer is just as applicable to us as to the followers of CHRIST while on earth. "If ye love me, keep my commandments," should be as real to us as to them.

So, in looking over the templar year just closed, let us ask ourselves, have we, as professed soldiers of the Cross, lived up to our privileges and opportunities?

The days of carnage and bloodshed, under the banner of the Cross, have long passed away, and I pray God they may never return. Men have outgrown the idea that the possession of the Holy Sepulchre and Holy City are necessary adjuncts to the success of the religion of CHRIST; and the church now teaches that the Temple of CHRIST is in the heart of man, and made fit for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit by spiritual renewal.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

Of the Grand Encampment he has this to say:

It seems rather late in the day to make either reference to or report of the doings of this grand body, but owing to the inability of our then Grand Commander GRAHAM to be present, I deem it but proper that I should at least refer to it.

My own experience in the Grand Eacampment has been limited; but from my knowledge of its doings, obtained from the printed proceedings, I feel safe in saying that the conclave at St. Louis was more thoroughly devoted to the transaction of business than any of its predecessors. I am a firm believer in the usefulness of our Grand Encampment, and the desirability of its perpetuity, but heartily concur in the idea of dispensing with the inducement for attendance of subordinate commanderies, by prohibiting parades of any kind during, or connected with its session, for two main reasons:

1. The Grand Encampment, being a legislative body, should have nothing transpiring to interfere with its strict attendance to business, which the presence of the great masses of the order certainly does.
2. The congregation of such great numbers of the members of the order has a tendency to cause a forgetfulness of those high moral and religious teachings and the principles of the order in the strife to show

the greatest hospitality. I need define myself no farther to those of you who have been in attendance at these great gatherings.

In justice to our Pennsylvania delegation, I will say that they were in their places at all meetings of the Grand Encampment.

I deem it most unfortunate that the consideration of the new ritual was postponed until the extra day, Friday, when nearly all the representatives of not only our own Grand Commandery, but of nearly all others, were compelled by their arrangements and engagements to be absent, as by this course, I am satisfied that it was hurried through without due consideration.

THE RITUAL.

And also of the new ritual, as follows:

It is in no spirit of fault finding or censoriousness that I call attention to its defects, but because I wish to present them to our representatives to the next Grand Encampment, so that they may be corrected.

1. It presumes to settle definitely one of the greatest theological questions of the day, by asserting that CHRIST referred to temporal death in his prayer, "Let this cup pass from me." I hardly think it in the province of our order to settle such a question.

2. The new ritual informs us that seven Knights Templar may open a commandery and transact business, while the book of the law, which is above all rituals, positively states that, in order to open a commandery for the transaction of business, there must be present nine Knights Templar entitled to vote, including an officer entitled to preside. (Book of the law, section 33.)

3. The recognized raps of the commandery have always been twelve, but without any explanation for so doing the new ritual substitutes eight and nine, thus encroaching on the chapter. This to my mind is clearly a mistake.

4. While I approve of the inspection and rehearsal at opening, I think it a mistake to make it compulsory, and not leave it to the judgment of the Eminent Commander.

5. The new ritual, in its reading, presumes that the Order of the Red Cross is a separate body, having its by-laws, minutes, etc., while such is not the case. Without referring to mistakes in language, etc., I come to what is to my mind one of the greatest defects of the ritual, namely, the omission of the Apostles' Creed. Why it should be abolished or omitted, I cannot conceive. If we, as an order, have advanced backward to such a degree as to be unable or unwilling to pronounce the creed as the foundation of our order, then we are worse than hypo-

crites, we are traitors to our profession, and the sooner we dissolve our organization the better it will be for our consistency. For my part, whenever I cannot honestly and earnestly repeat the creed, I shall cross the threshold of the asylum never to return.

In conclusion, I think it is a grave mistake to put the entire ritual in print, and, when it was done, to limit the supply to one copy to each subordinate commandery, allowing none to Division Commanders or Inspectors, and yet expecting them to correct and criticise its rendition. Considering the change of raps and omission of creed as certainly errors, I thought proper, in general orders, No. 1, to recommend the raps as formerly, and the retention of the creed. In question as to number (mentioned in the ritual) necessary to transact business in a commandery, you will see by decisions that I have declared it contrary to the law, and therefore void, and I understand that M. E. Grand Master Room~~E~~ has since sustained that position.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander during the year, and approved:

Question. What number of Sir Knights of a commandery are required to be present in order to open the commandery and transact business?

Answer. Nine knights, members of your commandery, must be present. See book of the law, page 144, section 33.

Question. Can a commandery hold a conclave without its charter being present in the asylum, said charter being present in the town or city where the asylum is situated?

Answer. The charter must be present in the asylum, and should be upon the pedestal of the Eminent Commander.

Question. Our Eminent Commander, having removed two hundred and fifty miles from our asylum, yet in the jurisdiction, has turned over the charter, etc., to me, the Generalissimo, with instructions to me to act for him in all things pertaining to the commandery. Have I authority to call special meetings, install officers, etc., and if so, whose name should be signed to notices?

Answer. Yes; you have authority to call special meetings, and do anything else belonging to the office of Eminent Commander. Officers to be installed in accordance with digest of templar law, section 24, part 3.

Answer 2. The name of the Eminent Commander shall be signed to all notices of meetings, etc., as he is still Eminent Commander, and it is in his name you act.

A commandery was voting on the adoption of an amendment to by-laws, when a Sir Knight called the yeas and nays; the acting Eminent Commander decided the call out of order.

Question 1. Was he not in error in so doing?

Question 2. Has a Sir Knight no appeal from the decision of his Eminent Commander?

Answer 1. Section 50, constitution of the Grand Encampment, states that all questions shall be determined by a majority vote, and there is nothing in masonic law allowing the call of yeas and nays; therefore, the Eminent Commander was right. A call of the yeas and nays, under parliamentary rules, requires every one to vote; while in our order there is no such requirement, except in case of ballot.

Answer 2. Section 51, constitution of the Grand Encampment, states: "No appeal shall lie to the commandery from the decision of the Commander."

If any Sir Knight feels aggrieved, and that he has not been fairly dealt with, he has the right of appeal to the Grand Commander, or to the Grand Commandery.

Question. On occasion of a Past Grand Commander asking admission to a subordinate commandery, what honors should be paid him?

Answer. There is no law to govern in this matter; but the custom of the order would certainly suggest that proper respect should be shown one who has been honored by election to the highest office in the gift of the Grand Commandery.

I would, therefore, decide that the commandery should be formed in two divisions, at a present.

A committee reported unfavorably upon a petition for dubbing and membership; a ballot was had; all the balls were white, and in favor of the applicant. The Eminent Commander thereupon decided the applicant rejected, because the committee had reported unfavorably.

Question 1. Was the Eminent Commander right in his decision?

Question 2. In what relation does the applicant stand to the commandery?

Answer 1. The Eminent Commander was in error in so deciding, the applicant being approved by ballot, which, irrespective of report of committee, decides the question of approval or rejection.

Answer 2. The applicant stands approved by the commandery, and entitled to the orders, unless objected to in accordance with the law.

Question. Is a Companion Royal Arch mason, who has lost an arm, eligible to the orders of knighthood?

Answer. He is not eligible.

DISPENSATION.

Dispensation was granted for a new commandery at Huntingdon.

THE MASONIC HOME.

We quote the following from **MARK RICHARDS MUCKLE**, who signs himself representative to the home from the Grand Commandery:

The assets of the institution, in real estate, cash, investments, etc., as presented at their last annual session, amounted to near \$50,000, clear of all indebtedness.

On New Year's day, on the occasion of the annual reception, an opportunity was given to a large number of brethren and their friends, to inspect the increased accommodations—among them the officers of the R. W. Grand Lodge, the M. E. Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania—all of whom expressed the liveliest satisfaction in all they witnessed.

There was a second visitation made to the home on May 25, on the occasion of the thirty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, when those present, representing the various sections of our great commonwealth, were profuse in their expressions of approval of the work already done.

While the home has progressed materially during its brief existence, there is still much to be done to enable the management to increase its means of accommodating the many demands for the admission of brethren to the same, which are frequently made. The various masonic bodies have shown their interest and good will in the numerous contributions in cash and kind. We cite the instances of Harmony chapter, which furnished the first room in an elegant manner, and was followed by Stephen Girard lodge, Meridian Sun lodge, Oriental chapter, Kensington chapter; and now the ladies of members of lodge No. 2 are about furnishing the only remaining room in the home. In addition to this, lodge No. 2 has agreed to give the home, annually, fifty cents per member from its funds; Easton lodge, half of the contents of a contribution box, which netted the sum of thirty dollars in three months; Philadelphia commandery, No. 2, \$100; the Ancient and Accepted rite, \$100, and annually thereafter, \$100; and the promise from other bodies is given to follow in the good work. Two brethren, on connecting themselves with the knights of Birmingham, have made over the amount due on their decease. There are still some improvements needed, such as a wash house, lavatory, etc., beside which, the home should be materially enlarged, to enable the management to admit the applicants who

are daily making efforts to get into the home, and are only prevented by want of capacity. To do this, the craft throughout the State is invited to connect itself with the home, and assist in carrying on the noble and charitable work.

Membership can be acquired by individually paying \$100, with annual dues at five dollars, and annual contributors, by the payment of not less than five dollars.

The home is entirely non-sectarian, and, while located in Philadelphia county, is, nevertheless, a purely State institution, extending its charities over the entire area of our commonwealth, and merits at the hands of our entire brotherhood, in whatever locality resident, the strongest material encouragement.

In submitting this report, permit me to commend this charity in the strongest and most forcible manner, urging you to keep the object constantly in view, and begging you to give it your most unqualified support, both in word and deed.

APPROPRIATION.

On motion of Sir WILLIAM H. DICKSON, it was unanimously resolved that a special appropriation of \$500, be made to the masonic home.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

On motion of Eminent Sir Knight WILLIAM H. DICKSON, the elective grand officers were constituted a committee to prepare and present a suitable testimonial to Eminent Sir Knight MARK RICHARDS MUCKLE, Grand Treasurer, expressive of the appreciation in which he is held by his fraters of the Grand Commandery, and as a testimonial of the faithful manner in which he has discharged the duties of Grand Treasurer for the past eighteen years.

INSTALLATION.

The installation of grand officers is given in full, and from the reading thereof, we are satisfied that everything was done in order. We would be glad, did space permit, to print it in full, as we feel sure all will be benefited by the reading thereof.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir WILLIAM J. KELLY, for the committee on correspondence, submits the review of twenty-eight sister jurisdic-

dictions, Michigan, for 1887, among the number, and in his opening says:

We have read the above proceedings carefully, and we are pleased to say we find little in them to criticise. On the contrary, there is much to please and gratify us, for the courteous and pleasant manner in which our jurisdiction has been mentioned by all the committees, and for the large extracts taken from the address of our Past Grand Commander, always with kind approval and pleasant reference.

We owe gratitude personally for many kind expressions to ourselves.

There is but little to report of the actions of other grand bodies, as they, without exception, like ourselves, have followed in the groove we have been running in for some time. There was nothing reported in the various proceedings, that we now recall, that was out of the line which had been noticed by the reporters time and time again, except in Ohio.

From Ohio we have taken a very full report from the Grand Commander's address, from the proceedings and from the correspondence report, and we call your especial attention to the subject, for the reason it may do good to realize how desperate we may become when we embark in enterprises so questionable as this seems to be.

The report, as given of the action of the Grand Commander of Kentucky, is an evidence of how reckless a partisan may become, when he would deliberately endeavor to embroil his jurisdiction in a strife, the consequences of which he could not foresee. As the proceedings of Kentucky are silent upon the subject, and Ohio makes their statements without reservation, we must conclude the facts are as given by the last named, and we sincerely trust that it is the last of its kind we shall ever hear of again.

We have clipped to a certain extent, because we find many matters old and useful, but treated in so bright and interesting a manner as to give us the assurance that you will be gratified in reading them.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan, for 1887, is fraternally reviewed. He says Sir HUGH McCURDY, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment of the United States, was formally received as the representative of the Grand Master, and responded to the Grand Commander's speech of welcome in his usual eloquent style.

TWO YEARS OLD.

There is much we would like to quote from this report, but as it is two years old, it would not be as interesting as if it were of a later date.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir WILLIAM W. ALLEN, Philadelphia, elected Grand Commander.

Sir CHARLES E. MEYER, Philadelphia, re-elected Grand Recorder.

TENNESSEE.

TWENTY-SIXTH annual conclave was held in the city of Clarksville, commencing May 8, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir CHARLES WINTON MOSBY, Grand Commander.

Sir GEORGE COOPER CONNOR, Grand Recorder.

Fourteen subordinate commanderies represented. Eight Past Grand Commanders present.

THEY REQUIRE NO ADVICE.

The Grand Commander says that he has had no question of templar law submitted to him. His term of office has passed without a ripple to disturb the placid surface of its duties, from which he is satisfied that the officers of the commanderies are so well posted in templar law that they require no advice. We have every reason to believe the Grand Commander was in earnest when he said so.

THE TRIENNIAL.

Referring to the triennial, he says:

Next year the Grand Encampment of the United States will meet at Washington. Would it not be well for this Grand Commandery to take some action toward raising funds to establish headquarters at the capital on that occasion? At St. Louis we had headquarters, but, com-

pared to others, it was a small affair. At Washington let us have headquarters that will be a credit to Tennessee. I would suggest that, as we are entirely out of debt, the per capita of \$1.50 and \$6.00 for each order conferred remain for the coming year. I think this would create a fund sufficient to have headquarters that would be in keeping with the prosperity of the order here, and enable us to be compared favorably with others.

CONCLUSION.

He concludes his address as follows:

And now, Sir Knights, within a few short hours I will retire from the exalted position in which you placed me a year ago, and return to you the mantle of authority you so kindly entrusted to my keeping. I hope I will return it to you as pure and unspotted as when I received it. I will gladly retire from my official position, but will always remember with gratitude the honor you did me by conferring on me the highest office in your gift. My personal staff I wish to thank for the support they have given me, and especially R. E. Sir G. C. CONNOR, the Grand Recorder, for the many favors done and the great assistance he has at all times given me. By his wise council and able suggestions he has enabled me to avoid blunders that otherwise I fear I should have fallen into, and by his ceaseless labors he has not only lightened my own work, but has caused more interest to be taken in templarism, and placed this Grand Commandery in a better condition than it was ever in before.

A WORTHY OFFICER.

We can well imagine how useful Sir CONNOR, as Grand Recorder, can be to any Grand Commandery at all times. Words of praise, we believe, fitly bestowed on a worthy officer. His report to the Grand Commandery is a more than ordinarily interesting paper and shows much thought upon all matters pertaining to templar masonry within his jurisdiction. He reports the indebtedness of the Grand Commandery at the opening of the year to be nearly \$400, but it did not take Sir CONNOR long to wipe that out, for in the next line he records the fact that he received from the subordinate commanderies a sum large enough to balance the books. Good boy; good commanderies.

He reports a new form for opening the Grand Commandery of Tennessee, and in submitting the same says that

other grand jurisdictions have adopted forms but this (his) is no copy or imitation of any of them. Good boy, again. None genuine except those marked GEO. C. CONNOR on the cover.

We must say everything good of Sir CONNOR for he is general chairman of our "mutual admiration society," and we (the writer) expect him to help us out of a scrape in that same direction. So we'll be good and kind, Sir CONNOR, till after the meeting of the Grand Encampment.

The committee on reports of grand officers have this to say of Sir CONNOR's report:

The carefully prepared report of the Grand Recorder should receive the earnest attention of every member of this grand body, and, so far as possible, of every Knight Templar in the State. Its clear and concise statements are invaluable as fully presenting the facts with respect to the order in this jurisdiction, and, your committee are glad to add, present good reasons for congratulation. The order is in a prosperous condition, and if the suggestions presented in said report are acted upon, will continue to prosper. We especially commend the remarks with regard to the selection of suitable knights as recorders of subordinate commanderies.

The subject of securing the "attendance of permanent members" upon the conclaves of the Grand Commandery, discussed by the Grand Recorder, is worthy of careful consideration. We are hardly prepared to believe that the absence of past grand officers is due to the small attendant expense. We commend to your consideration the whole subject without recommendation.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Past Grand Commander Sir BERNARD G. WITT, of Kentucky, and Grand Representative of Tennessee in that jurisdiction, was introduced by Sir THOMAS O. MORRIS and cordially welcomed to a seat by the Grand Commander.

MASONIC WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' HOME.

Sir WM. H. BUMPAS favorably presented to Grand Commandery the claims of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, in which he was ably assisted by Sir M. B. TONEY, and the following resolution by Past Grand Commander HENSLEY was adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of Tennessee hereby tenders its hearty, cordial, and earnest endorsement and approval of the great and noble work of masonic charity known as the "Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of Tennessee." That each member of this grand body pledges his individual efforts and influence in support of so worthy a purpose, to urge its importance and laudable objects upon the favorable notice of our fraters and others at our respective homes, and by all suitable methods to give our hearty co-operation and support.

THE RITUAL.

The committee on ritual presented the following report and resolutions:

Your committee respectfully reports herewith, a partial list of details contained therein, which, in their opinion, need correction or change; and, in view thereof, they recommend to this grand body that it memorialize the Grand Encampment at its next triennial conclave to be held at Washington, D. C., to recall said ritual for revision and correction, and that when again promulgated, so much of the ceremonies only as may be deemed essential, be reserved as the absolute requirement of the Grand Encampment, and that all other details of the "work" be relegated to Grand Commanderies.

In this connection, and to this end, we beg leave to submit, and recommend for adoption, the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery recognizes the Grand Encampment as the supreme authority over the Knights Templar of the United States of America, and that while it acknowledges its fealty and loyalty to said organization, as a constituent Grand Commandery, it claims the right to courteously suggest and protest when occasion demands, and especially so in a matter of such vital importance to the interests of our order, as the one under consideration.

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery hereby enters an earnest, but courteous protest against the ritual as promulgated, and that it memorialize the Grand Encampment at its next triennial conclave, to recall said ritual for revision and correction; and further, that it memorialize said grand body to reserve to its own authority, so much only as pertains to the essential features of the ceremonies of the order, and to relegate to Grand Commanderies all other details of the "work."

THE MISTAKES OF CARSON.

We omit giving in full the mistakes of Sir CARSON, as pointed out by this committee, as we presume every fellow

will work on his own lines in this direction at the Grand Encampment.

After the subject matter had been fully discussed, the following resolutions by Past Grand Master Gwynne, were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery, deeply impressed with the inferiority of the rituals adopted by the Grand Encampment at St. Louis in 1886, and while recognizing our vows of obedience, do not hold that they extend so far as to make it our duty to use bad grammar, promulgate untruthfulness, make vital omissions in necessary ceremonies, misquote the holy scriptures, do hereby absolve our subordinates from the use of the rituals as aforesaid until the meeting of the Grand Encampment in 1889.

Resolved, That the members of this Grand Commandery (which includes the commanders of constituents) be ordered to send forthwith to the Grand Recorder, all copies of the printed rituals of the Grand Encampment in their possession.

Resolved, That constituents continue the use of the rituals in their possession at the time of the issuance of the rituals now ordered to be returned to the Grand Recorder.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution, by Sir ROBERT PILLOW, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That hereafter all Past Grand Commanders, and actual Past Commanders of this jurisdiction, who may be in attendance on the annual conclaves of this Grand Commandery, and are not at the time active commanders or grand officers, shall be entitled to draw pay for their expenses the same as the grand officers.

This is the law of our jurisdiction; it is just and fair and works well in this State, and we heartily commend the action of Tennessee in this direction.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir CONNOR—*ex officio*—presents his first report on foreign correspondence. Say, Sir CONNOR, omit “foreign” in your next report. We have looked in vain for a “foreigner” but can’t find him in the list of jurisdictions reviewed.

KANSAS.

Under Kansas he quotes the following from the Grand Commander's address:

I refused to issue a dispensation to Emporia Commandery, No. 8, to appear in public in uniform and go in procession with other organizations and participate as a commandery in "Decoration Day" services.

And says:

From this we are led to infer that the Right Eminent decided that a "ball and banquet" is a "Masonic occasion" in contemplation of the Grand Encampment, and "Decoration Day" is not. Verily we are puzzled. Our hope lies in the speedy recovery of templary from the epidemic of "playing soldier" on all possible occasions—a disease which now afflicts it all over the Union. Even the "Glorious Fourth" did not ascend to equality with a "ball and banquet," which led the distinguished frater to "air his loyalty" and conclude wisely:

"I do not believe it is proper or right to parade the banners of our noble and Christian order before the public on such occasions."

Our ideas exactly. This playing soldier with templar masonry ought to "play out," particularly, since in the way of feathers and trappings, we have to take a back seat for Odd Fellows organizations, Knights of Pythias, and others.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan for 1888 is most courteously reviewed, and he has many good things to say of our proceedings.

Of Grand Commander WILLIAMS, he says:

He granted numerous dispensations; notably, three to parade on that time-honored "masonic occasion," the Fourth of July; seven for that other "masonic occasion," Memorial Day. All charming exhibitions of feathers. And yet if you were to look at the face of this frater in the lines of steel of the frontispiece, you wouldn't suspect him of trying to "play soldier" for mere display.

While so far "off" on displays, he was near to, close by, at, on the subject of "Grand Representatives." He recommended the adoption of the almost universal system, but Michigan continued to find pleasure in "singularity," and like Paddy-go-Aisy concluded the "ould way was good enough for the present." No doubt the representative system accomplishes very little, but even that little wouldn't do any harm. But why prate? 'Tis none of our business.

THAT FUNERAL BILL.

He publishes a part of the bill presented by an Ohio Commandery for the funeral expenses of an illustrious departed knight of this jurisdiction and does so, he says, because "we may never see its like again." We can only hope he never may.

TOO MODEST.

Modesty forbids the writer from quoting what Sir CONNOR says relative to solid bombast, and can only say we believe life too short to look so far back to the rear—'tis not the duty of templars to look behind but rather to press forward to the right.

MISSISSIPPI.

Under Mississippi he quotes what the Grand Commander of that jurisdiction said relative to stagnation of templar masonry in his jurisdiction, and says:

A change will come, for there is much life still left in grand old Mississippi. We sympathize with that native orator of ante-bellum days who exclaimed—when another disaster threatened his home, with an eloquence that was only rough hewn—"The idee of Mississippi repudiling is all a ho-ax," and say candidly, the idea of the order being annihilated in Mississippi, while such gallant Knights as DE LAP, PATTON, BENBROOK, SAVERY, TOWLER, ERWIN, VAUGHN, POWER, and others of like ilk live, is beyond the possibilities. Stir 'em up, eminent sirs, stir 'em up; and don't be narrow or censorious. A little kindness often accomplishes more than "special work," and a little molasses judiciously spread exceeds gallons of vinegar. *Verbum*, etc.

He says of Sir DE LAP's report:

Eminent Sir GEORGE DE LAP furnished the correspondence report. Evidently he still suffers; indeed, he informs Maine that he has not had a well day in five years. This, of course, accounts for his impatient words when matters that do not please him are passed in review. The Grand Encampment is his pet horror, and he alludes to it as the "grand humbug," the "triennial drunk," the "central excrescence," and many other such charming epithets are applied with remarkable virility for a sick man.

Now, Sir DE LAP, we have you on the hip. We are the fellow you banged about so fiercely for using "Amontillado and MUMM'S Extra

Dry" at the banquet given our Grand Commandery. There was a sight of method in your madness then, as there is now, but there wasn't a semblance of temperance. As we understand it the man who boasts of his temperance should be temperate in speech, manners, criticism, eating and drinking. Now it is scarcely worthy of approbation to be swearing ourselves while castigating our boys for committing that offense, or to so bitterly condemn another for a fault which, though not one of ours, may be balanced by one quite as glaring. This we say while keeping anciente SPENSER's couplet in mind:

"In vain he seeketh others to suppress,
Who hath not learned himself first to subdue."

OHIO.

Under Ohio he quotes from the review of Connecticut the following:

Dear brother WHEELER, that which you quote—our warning to our defamers, the nasty, sneaking, drunken conspirators, as to their fate, "they having made the stake," and illustrated by our extract from RICHELIEU—has so far been triumphantly fulfilled. Many of the rogues have met their merited disgrace; the others will follow.

And truly says:

Some very bad men must have worn the cross in Ohio, to warrant such language in the official report of its Grand Commandery.

Commenting on Georgia he ruffles the feathers of the amiable Grand Recorder in an exhibit, and then "wickedly" calls him "Sir WATSON." In Georgia Sir CARSON has it "Decoration Day," in Kansas it is Decoration Day, dry so, without any of the black little crooked surroundings. Verily there is only human affection, and no "CERNEAUISM," in the Georgia Decoration Day, dear frater.

Reviewing Illinois nearly a whole page is devoted to a personal matter that might have been omitted without marring the able report.

He objects to "ABD-EL KADER" as a commandery name in Kansas, because Mohammedan. If we had the choosing between the names, "RICHARD COEUR DE LION" and "HAROUN-AL RASCHID," for a commandery, we are a little suspicious that the characters of the men who bore these names would carry our vote to the latter. And yet there is something in a name.

Under Kentucky the reviewer transcends the rule we respectfully suggest. If the Grand Commandery suppressed, why should a reviewer of the proceedings travel outside the record and bring in what was thrown out? Sorry Sir CARSON sets us youngsters so bad an example.

In his anger he mixes his chemical knowledge, substituting carbon for sulphur.

TEXAS.

Under Texas he quotes the following decisions made by the Grand Commander of that jurisdiction:

I received a communication from Paris Commandery, No. 9, inquiring as to the standing of one of its members who had been expelled by the blue lodge, and on appeal to the Grand Lodge was restored to all the rights and benefits of masonry, except as to membership in his lodge. I decided that he was not a member of the commandery, nor could he become such, except through the usual way of petition.

Also what the committee on jurisprudence in reviewing the decisions said:

The Grand Encampment has adopted the generally received law that the restoration by his lodge or chapter, of a templar expelled or suspended by such lodge or chapter, restores him to all the rights of which he was deprived by his lodge or chapter, viz: To good standing as a templar, and to membership in his commandery.—See Sup. Code, Stat. 114.

And comments thereon as follows:

The Grand Commander adopted the committee's report, and so overruled the Grand Commander. And now it may be asked, "does the generally received law" apply to this case? The Grand Lodge did not decide he was unlawfully expelled from his lodge, and therefore did not restore him to membership. If the act of the Grand Lodge merely restored him to masonry, did it do more than restore him to templary? If a vote is necessary to his acquiring membership in the lodge from which he was expelled, why should it not require a vote to restore him to membership in the commandery from which he was driven into masonic death by the act of said lodge? If the Grand Lodge could not force him upon the membership of the lodge, how could the Grand Commandery force him upon the membership of the commandery. The points are worthy of discussion. Let us state them.

The Grand Encampment can enact no law that would authorize a templar to hold masonic intercourse with a suspended or expelled mason. Hence suspension and expulsion affect the masonic relations of templars without any reference to the laws of templary.

Attention is again directed to Sup. Code, Stat. 114, quoted above by the Texas committee, a law that gives rise to nearly all of the misunder-

standing over lodge and chapter relations to templar membership. Clearly, then, a lodge or chapter may deprive a templar of membership in his commandery. The lodge that so deprives him of membership may restore him to membership. A lodge has therefore greater power than a Grand Lodge or a Grand Commandery, and properly so.

A mason expelled by a lodge, in whose penal jurisdiction he was sojourning when he committed the offense, may be restored to the rights of masonry and membership by the lodge in which he held membership at the time of his expulsion, and without referring the matter to the lodge that expelled him. A Grand Lodge could restore him to the "rights" of masonry, but could not restore to membership in a lodge. If it cannot restore to membership in a lodge, why should it be claimed that it has the power to restore to membership in a commandery? The Grand Encampment statute says commandery membership is severed by the lodge suspending or expelling. Who can restore membership, then, except a body having power to sever it? Nor is this statement of the law affected in States where Grand Lodges claim original jurisdiction over affiliated and non-affiliated masons.

In the case under discussion the templar being expelled was masonically dead; yes, dead as a door nail. It will not do to say he was not entirely dead, inasmuch as re-initiation is not necessary to rehabilitation. Technically it is necessary, but as the member does not lose the information received in the conferring of degrees, reconfering would be a foolish waste of time, to say no more. The expelled mason is masonically dead, and can hold no relations of a masonic nature with masons of any grade. The membership of a suspended mason is merely "suspended," and the act of restoration cuts the suspending "cord" and allows it to drop into its proper relations, but expulsion utterly destroys every masonic relation. It is important not to use the words "suspension" and "expulsion" synonymously.

We cheerfully admit the propriety of limiting the power of lodges and chapters over templar membership, and insist that Sup. Code, Stat. 114, contains an error that the Grand Encampment should hasten to correct by just and equitable legislation. But as the law now stands, we respectfully submit the Texas Grand Commander's decision should have been allowed to stand.

CONCLUSION.

We give in full the conclusion of this able and interesting report:

The last line written, and the last page of "copy" gone to the printer. Joy at the beginning, delight at the ending. We lay down our

pen and thereby strangle the homily that has been tempting us for utterance during the closing days of our work. No doubt it is the part of wisdom to omit it.

It is our maiden effort, and perhaps the best we could have done under the circumstances. We have written what we believed to be right and the best; without an inordinate desire for praise, and with a sincere yearning for the best interests of templary—plainly, bluntly. We have set naught down in malice, even though it be suspected that occasionally we have used strong language.

In the face of the warnings of the dignified "silent" correspondents we have offered opinions where the expression of them appeared to be advisable—for home instruction at least. We have quoted from commanders and correspondents with equal freedom, and we hope with profitableness. We have not rushed into the "High Grade Masonry" controversy; heaven forfend a time that makes such discussion necessary in Tennessee. We have read what others have written, much of it hot, hasty, haughty, rash words, not designed to make for the peace of templary.

The Grand Encampment is now secure in the affection and loyal devotion of its constituents. It acted wisely at St. Louis, and the belief is general that it will be equally attentive to business, and conservative in legislation when it assembles in Washington. If such prove to be its course, then the diminution of its powers will not be suggested by the most censorious.

In Canada there exists an "American party" of increasing proportions. We mean there is a large number of Canadian Templars anxious to adopt the ritual, dress, and other features of the templarism practiced in the United States. That such a change of ritual as will enable United States Templars to easily make themselves known in Canada, and vice versa, is important no one will deny. And that such a change is possible, aye probable, may be gleaned from the following in the report of the Grand Council:

"The history of the templar order, so far as relates to its connection with freemasonry, is admitted as being shrouded with such uncertainty that even the best historians on the subject, and among whom may be well reckoned our Supreme Grand Master, feel compelled to rear a superstructure, pleasing, no doubt, but not able to bear strict historic tests. But our Supreme Grand Master has shown such diligent and profound research that he has removed from the history of our order many of the doubts which have enshrouded it. As templars it is wiser for us to depend on our own actions for what we profess to be

than merely live on the renown of our predecessors, heightened by traditional coloring."

During the life-time of our Grand Master, Col. W. J. B. McLEOD MOORE, the change will not be suggested, for Canadian Templars love him too sincerely for his devotion to the order. When he is gone the spirit of the above resolution will work out radical changes. Shall we say it is destiny?

The uniform controversy is coralled within State boundaries. Each jurisdiction is now painting its own feathers, and stamping its own buttons. The States are adopting and rejecting both baldricks and cuffs, and donning malitia coats, brass buttons and like toggery. Verily the jay is becoming more precious than the lark, and the painted adder skin contents the eye. Ah! what a display that will be at the capital. How the girls will stare at the feathers, lace, buttons, belts, and jewel-hilted blades of Damascus. But what will the Chinese say?

The ritual adopted at St. Louis has been heartily adopted by a very few grand jurisdictions. One State repudiates it, three have appointed committees to enquire what can be done to be rid of it, and others have exhibited a feeling of dissatisfaction which will increase as good ritualists attempt the work.

The chairman of the ritual committee announces his belief that the Grand Encampment will refuse to listen to its constituents on the question of re-opening the subject. Therein he errs. We are fully persuaded that

They will not grudge
To pick out treasures from an earth pot,
Since the worst speaks something good.

Why should we be content with this new ritual? That of the temple is evidently a State ritual which, after slight tinkering, the committee pressed to adoption, omissions, bad English and all. It bears a no nearer similarity to the English and Canadian rituals than it does to the "Third Degree Amplified" of the K. P.'s. We like it none the less on that account however. But behold the "Malta," a tinkered copy of the commingled English and Canadian rituals, the tinkering done by an unskilled hand. The method of "work" is the same in the "Temple" as in the "Red Cross;" why should it be so abruptly changed in the "Malta?" The three degrees of the commandery should succeed each other as do the degrees in craft masonry. Those who understand European and American masonry well know that we have an American work from the E. A. to the R. A. degrees, in all respects unlike the European. The "Red Cross" and "Templar" degrees are also American work. But the "Malta" is a cross between Canada, England, and the

committee of the Grand Encampment. Tennessee asks for a new committee, and a conscientious review of the adopted rituals. Is the demand unreasonable?

Tennessee may ask for a committee that will refer the work to all the known intelligent ritualists of the Union, for criticisms and suggestions, and then from these fairly, candidly, and without prejudice, prepare three rituals that will be worthy of templary in this great Union of States. Personal prejudices and whims must be subjected to the good of templary, whether such subjection wounds or pleases.

But Tennessee may decide to move in the Grand Encampment for the same procedure as was adopted by the General Grand Chapter, viz., the adoption of the "essentials" by the Grand Encampment, while leaving the adoption of the "non-essentials" to the Grand Commanderies. On this point we will earnestly solicit a fair and candid discussion. Whatever is done should be done decently and in order, and with the interests of templary always in view.

There is peace in most of the jurisdictions. Ohio is torn by dissensions caused by the Scottish rite controversy. Canada and England are at fraternal loggerheads over Australia. Iowa has a white elephant called a park. The few ill considered passages between plain-spoken correspondents may be considered "personal gratifications published at the expense of the jurisdictions." They could have been omitted, but of such testy ones it may be said in all candor:

The truth they speak doth lack some gentleness,
And time to speak it in. They rub the sore
When they should bring the plaster.

With a heart full of gratitude for the associations and pleasures of the year just passed, we lay aside our pen. In full acknowledgment of the goodness of Him in whom we have had our being, and appreciating the uncertainty of the future, we devoutly say:

Forever with the Lord!
Amen! So let it be;
Life from the dead is in that word,
'Tis immortality.
Here in the body pent,
Absent from Him we roam;
Yet mighty pitch our moving tent
A day's march nearer home.

And now, fraters of Tennessee, may the LORD bless thee and keep thee; may the LORD make his face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; may the LORD lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir GAMALIEL B. WILSON, Clarksville, elected Grand Commander.

Sir GEORGE COOPER CONNOR, Chattanooga, re-elected Grand Recorder.

TEXAS.

THIRTY-FIFTH annual conclave was held in the city of El Paso, commencing April 18, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir JOHN O. JOHNSON, Grand Commander.

Sir ROBERT BREWSTER, Grand Recorder.

Fifteen subordinate commanderies represented.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

It being announced that Sir J. D. ADAMS, Past Grand Commander of Arkansas, and the representative of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, accompanied by Sir Knight B. F. ATKINSON, Past Grand Commander of Arkansas, were in waiting in the ante room, the R. E. Grand Commander ordered the Eminent Grand Captain General to take with him an escort to wait upon the distinguished visitors, and conduct them into the asylum.

The escort returned to the asylum with the Eminent Sir Knights, accompanied by Sir Knight H. B. STODDARD, Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Encampment of the United States; also Sir Knights R. M. ELGIN, F. B. SEXTON, JAMES F. MILLER and N. W. HUNTER, Past Grand Commanders of Texas.

The R. E. Grand Commander received and welcomed the distinguished visitors with a brief and appropriate address, and turned over to Sir Knight ADAMS the Com-

mandery, who received the same, and in a brief speech addressed the commandery, after which Sir Knight B. F. ATKINSON, in his usual eloquent and happy style, addressed the Grand Commandery; after which Sir Knight ADAMS returned the commandery to the R. E. Grand Commander.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander, and approved by the Grand Commandery:

Worth commandery, through her Recorder, Sir J. K. ASHBY, states that "some eighteen months previous, a Companion petitioned that commandery for the orders, paid his fee, and was elected, but failed to present himself within the time prescribed by law. Owing to a change of circumstances, he does not desire to renew the petition, and asks that the fee paid by him be refunded." The commandery asks what they must do.

I replied that I knew of no law that would require the commandery to return the fee, but that they had a perfect right to do so, and I would so recommend.

Sir CHARLES DAVIS, V. E. Deputy Grand Commander asks:

Can a commandery of Knights Templar, acting under the ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment in 1886, open and transact business with seven members present?

I decided that they could not; that the statute of the Grand Encampment specified the number required to open and transact business. Since this decision I have received a decision of the M. E. Grand Master upon this point, in which he says: "Unless there are nine members present, including an officer entitled to open the body, a commandery cannot be opened to transact business. The adoption of a ritual in no wise affects a statute. The only way in which a statute can be amended is prescribed in section 67 of the constitution."

I have received similar inquiries from Brownwood, No. 22, and Albany, No. 21, and have furnished them with copies of the above decision of the M. E. Grand Master.

Sir E. R. NORTON, Eminent Commander of San Antonio, No. 7, says: "A Companion of Burleson chapter, at San Antonio, left for Los Angeles, California, immediately after taking the degrees, and now writes to know if he can apply for the orders in this commandery and receive them in Los Angeles."

I replied: If the Companion is a resident of Los Angeles, California, your commandery has no jurisdiction. (See code of statutes, Grand

Encampment, page 110; printed proceedings Grand Commandery of Texas, 1886, section 25, clause 1.) If a resident of Los Angeles, California, but has not resided there for six months previous, he can petition the commandery at that place, and they can ask of San Antonio, No. 7, a waiver of jurisdiction, and, if granted, he can be elected and receive the orders there, (see same section as above, clauses 4 and 5.) but if the Companion is still a resident of San Antonio, then he cannot petition Los Angeles, and I fail to find any law that would authorize San Antonio to elect him, and ask the commandery at Los Angeles to confer the orders.

CONCLUSION.

The Grand Commander concludes his address as follows:

Sir Knights, my official acts are before you for inspection. I have tried, to the best of my ability, to discharge the duties assigned me one year ago. That I have erred, is only human. If I have, you have power to correct.

In closing this report, allow me to express to you all my most sincere thanks for the honor conferred by electing me to the highest position in your power to bestow, and to express the hope that my future life may be such that you may never regret your action upon that occasion.

My thanks are especially due to V. E. Sir H. B. STODDARD, chairman of the committee on templar jurisprudence, and to Eminent Sir ROBERT BREWSTER, Grand Recorder, for valuable counsel and assistance.

And now, Sir Knights, I return to you the trust committed to my charge, trusting and believing it will be entrusted to abler and better hands.

REPORTS BY GRAND VISITORS.

Elaborate and extended reports are made by the several grand visitors, from which it appears that almost every commandery was visited, and a report made of their doings, so far as could be ascertained.

BY PROXY.

About half of the Past Grand Commanders of this jurisdiction appear to be represented by proxy; as we have said before, we are not a believer in the doctrine.

DEDICATING THE STATE CAPITOL.

The Grand Commandery accepted the invitation from the Grand Lodge of Texas to participate in the ceremonies

of dedicating the State capitol at Austin, and to act as escort to the M. W. Grand Lodge on that occasion.

VISITING KNIGHTS.

A number of Sir Knights from commandery No. 4, of Deming, New Mexico, were announced as in waiting, and were escorted to the asylum, where an address was made, and responded to by one of the Eminent Sir Knights of New Mexico.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No report on correspondence.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir CHARLES DAVIS, El Paso, elected Grand Commander.

Sir ROBERT BREWSTER, Houston, re-elected Grand Recorder.

VERMONT.

FORTY-SIXTH annual conclave was held in the city of Burlington, commencing June 12, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir DELOS MARTIN BACON, Grand Commander.

Sir WARREN G. REYNOLDS, Grand Recorder.

Ten subordinate commanderies represented. Three Past Grand Commanders present.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced that R. E. ALFRED A. HALL, the representative of the Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States, was in waiting. Sir Knights WILL F. LEWIS and CHARLES E. CAMPBELL were appointed an escort to receive the distinguished visitor. The escort then formally introduced the Right Eminent frater to the Grand Commandery, and he was welcomed by the Grand Commander.

DECISION.

The following question, statement and answer was the only decision the Grand Commander was called upon to make during the year:

Statement. A petitioner was rejected in a commandery by one black ball. Six months or more elapsed and the objector comes forward and says he desires to remove his objection, and asks that the petitioner be permitted to receive the orders.

Question. Can the petitioner receive the orders before the expiration of the time specified in the by-laws, relating to rejection, without the formality of a new petition and ballot?

Answer. No.

THE RITUAL.

Of the ritual the Grand Commander says:

The ritual which has been promulgated by the Grand Encampment, and which is in general use in this jurisdiction, is not without its errors and omissions, and while we in Vermont have always been taught to believe, and I may be pardoned for saying that we still believe, that no purer work exists than our own "POTTER work," yet I am led to think that after the Grand Encampment shall have corrected the work now extant, and removed some of its glaring imperfections, it will become a ritual which will give general if not complete satisfaction. I earnestly hope that each of our subordinates may use the new ritual exclusively, thereby demonstrating their entire fealty to the Grand Commandery and to the Grand Encampment.

There seems to be a misapprehension in relation to the "constitutional members," owing to the supposed change in the new ritual, which gives it as seven, nine, etc., and also where the word seven occurs in the place of nine in the **. Undoubtedly it was not the intention of the committee to change the law in that respect, or of the Grand Encampment to adopt such change, and I certainly do not consider the law as so changed. In order to make the matter perfectly understood, some jurisdictions have considered the subject and have established the law, by edict and otherwise, as in accordance with the constitutional law of nine, construing the law as in no wise changed and in strict compliance with the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment, which requires nine to constitute a quorum in all templar bodies.

PEACE AND HARMONY.

The address of the Grand Commander shows much labor performed during the year. He records all as peace

and harmony within his jurisdiction, and concludes his report as follows:

Sir Knights, I have done. My report to you has been unavoidably lengthy. If I have wearied your patience, I crave pardon.

I desire to express my warmest gratitude for the many honors and courtesies shown me, and while my life may be spared, I shall always feel that I have a place in the affections of the templars of Vermont, which knowledge is precious and dear to me, and fills my heart with unbounded love and veneration toward all who bear the cross upon their breast.

And now, Sir Knights, let us be true to our noble order, cherishing its beautiful teachings in our hearts, striving to attain the fruition of our hopes and aspirations, ever remembering the promise, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution, offered by Sir T. M. CHAPMAN, was adopted:

Resolved, That Easter Day, Ascension Day or the following Sunday be observed throughout this jurisdiction, and that the subordinate commanderies be permitted to make arrangements to observe the days without a dispensation from the Grand Commander.

EASTER AND ASCENSION DAY SERVICE.

The Grand Commander appointed a committee to prepare an Easter and Ascension Day service, in accordance with the resolution offered by Sir FISHER.

WANT THE RITUAL REVISED.

The committee on Grand Commander's address, among other things, say:

The criticisms made by the Grand Commander upon the ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment, are fair and just, and we join with him in the hope that the errors and inconsistencies, as regarded by us, may be corrected by the Grand Encampment, and that a standard work, desirable as all must admit, may be the result of a careful revision.

"UNIFORM QUESTION."

The "uniform question," after much discussion, was laid over for one year.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir FREDERICK S. FISHER, of course, writes the report on correspondence. If you don't believe it, just look at the signature. It is his eighth annual report, and, like those that have preceded it, is worthy of any time spent in the perusal thereof. We regret we are always behind a year with our Vermont fraters, in reviewing their proceedings and correspondence report; but what can't be cured must be endured.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan for 1887 is fraternally reviewed. Our esteemed Sir Knight commends the good word we said of our beloved Rector. We thank him for the kindly words, and assure him they are appreciated.

NEW YORK.

Under the review of New York, Sir FISHER says:

The correspondence is presented by the father and chief of the mutuals, Sir JOHN W. SIMONS, *frater inter frates*. It is his thirty-fifth annual report. It was a pleasure to once more grasp the hand of the veteran, as we did at Providence last September, and behold his vigor. Age seems to effect him differently from most of the aged, in making silence speak, for year after year he contracts his reports. But it is a skill acquired in years of experience, which not all of us can expect to attain yet awhile. We shall try, however, to make our thirty-fifth report as brief as that of New York.

Alas! little did Sir FISHER think, when he penned these lines, that Sir SIMON's hand would so soon be still in death, and his pen cease to move.

CONCLUSION.

In his conclusion, he says:

Again we return from the grand asylums. Our aim in our pilgrimage was to bring back only what would be of the greater interest to our fraters at home, restrained when we desired to appropriate many of the things pleasing and instructive by the limited space allotted this review, for though our fraters have not in words expressed it, we know that they feel that brevity would be a relief to the treasury, and we also

feel and know that were they as rich in money as in other things all the space desired would be given.

In this review again have we found courtesy and hospitality, and we salute all at home and abroad in the name of God and SAINT JOHN the almoner.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir DELOS MARTIN BACON, St. Johnsbury, re-elected Grand Commander.

Sir WARREN G. REYNOLDS, Burlington, re-elected Grand Recorder.

—
VIRGINIA.

SIXTY-SIXTH annual conclave was held in the city of Richmond, commencing November 13, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir JAMES B. BLANKS, Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM B. ISAACS, Grand Recorder.

Fourteen subordinate commanderies represented. Three Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander opens his address as follows:

"Three-score years and ten" is, by the Poet King of Israel, named as the allotted years of usefulness of man. After that period in life, even "if by reason of strength they be four-score years," then their strength is pronounced as of "labor and sorrow;" and yet in His wisdom "He putteth down one and setteth up another," and they go on from "strength to strength," applying their energies to building up the waste places, and causing the barren spots of earth to bloom and blossom as the rose. This Grand Commandery has not yet quite reached that period in life which, by divine authority, is allotted to the usefulness of man. On the contrary, the vacant places in its councils have been supplied, and the rapidly passing years have increased our numbers, and added strength, stability and usefulness to our organization. But the past is an example to us. Our efforts should be to excel it in good works.

We meet to-day blessed with peace, harmony and prosperity throughout our grand jurisdiction. Let us, then, before entering upon the consideration of the business before us, make our grateful thanks acceptable to Almighty God through His Son for His merciful kindness to us in preserving our lives to this day, and in granting to us health and happiness. And let us beseech Him to continue His Fatherly protection over us, and permit us to go on from strength to strength, gaining in wisdom, and to be so unceasing in good works that the generations to follow us, in all time to come, may pronounce the benediction,

"Blessings be with them, and eternal praise
Who gave us nobler lives and nobler cares."

CANNOT RESIGN.

The Grand Commander decided that under the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment, neither of the first three officers of a chartered commandery can resign after installation.

THE TRIENNIAL.

Of the Triennial Grand Encampment of the United States, he says:

The twenty-fourth conclave of the Most Eminent Grand Encampment of the United States of America, will be held in the city of Washington on the second Tuesday in October, 1889, and, from present indications, it will be one of the most interesting conclaves of that grand body. Matters of great importance to every grand jurisdiction, and specially to this Grand Commandery, will be discussed and acted upon. It therefore behooves us to shape our legislation at this session with reference to some of the important questions to be decided at that session. The most important of all will be the new ritual. Many of our sister jurisdictions have, in unmistakable language, expressed their disapprobation of the ritual as adopted at the last triennial, and from all portions of our State sentiments of non-approval of the work have been freely expressed. That the Grand Encampment will deal with the subject as is best calculated to advance the interest of templarism in this jurisdiction, I have not the least doubt, and I therefore submit the matter to you without further suggestion.

In all probability the largest gathering of templars ever assembled on this continent will be present at this conclave, and it is of the utmost importance that Virginia should be fully represented, and suitable headquarters for our Grand Commandery secured, so as to enable us, in some degree, to reciprocate the many courtesies extended to Virginia templars

at former conclaves; and in order that the representatives might be fully prepared to act at this conclave, the following note was appended to general orders convening this body:

"The triennial conclave of the Most Eminent Grand Encampment of the United States of America will be held in the city of Washington on the second Tuesday in October, 1889. It will be eminently proper that this Grand Commandery should have suitable headquarters in that city during its session. The R. E. Grand Commander requests the members to come prepared to take action on this subject, and to make provision for the establishment and subsistence of said headquarters."

Feeling confident that the well-earned fame of old Virginia for genuine, warm-hearted hospitality will be jealously guarded by Virginia templars, I leave the matter with you for such action as you may deem proper.

THE RIGHT MAN.

He has this to say of his Grand Recorder, which may be news to some, but not to those who know him as we do. Those who know him best, echo the sentiment of the Grand Commander that Sir Isaacs is "the right man in the right place:"

In closing this report, I would be wanting in knightly courtesy, and do violence to the promptings of my heart, if I did not thus publicly tender my grateful thanks to our worthy Grand Recorder, R. E. Sir WILLIAM B. ISAACS, for his uniform kindness, his cheerful and prompt compliance with my every request, and the very valuable assistance he has rendered me by his advice and counsel. The repeated endorsement of his distinguished ability by his continuous re-election to the office of Grand Recorder, and the personal testimony of my predecessors and myself, declare him to be "the right man in the right place."

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

The special committee appointed to prepare a law providing for the removal of subordinate commanderies, submitted the following report, which was adopted:

SECTION 1. If the building in which a commandery statelily meets shall be destroyed or become unfit for meetings of the commandery, such meeting shall be held temporarily in such place within its territorial jurisdiction as may be ordered by the Eminent Commander.

SECTION 2. Any proposition for the permanent removal of the place of meeting of a commandery must be made at a stated assembly.

The motion shall be recorded upon the minutes, and the Recorder shall notify the members of the commandery to attend at the next stated assembly for its consideration.

SECTION 3. If the Eminent Commander approves the proposition, majority will be sufficient to adopt it, but, if he does not approve, a vote of two-thirds shall be necessary.

SECTION 4. A commandery cannot remove its place of meeting outside of its territorial jurisdiction, without the consent of the R. E. Grand Commander.

SECTION 5. The Recorder shall promptly inform the Grand Recorder of any such permanent removal.

COMMITTEE ON CODE.

The report of the special committee on code of statutes, was presented, and same adopted.

FEE FOR DISPENSATIONS AND CHARTERS.

We notice that the sum of forty dollars is named as the fee for dispensations and charters to form new commanderies—too little, by less than one-half. The other figure mentioned in the section might do, but this sum seems insignificant for charter fees.

COMMITTEE ON GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The committee on Grand Commander's address submitted the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the preamble and resolution adopted by this Grand Commandery at its annual conclave held in the city of Petersburg on November 24, 1887, be certified to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of the United States, to be laid before its next triennial session, to be held in the city of Washington on the second Tuesday in October, 1889, which are as follows:

WHEREAS, The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States has enjoined upon the templars under its jurisdiction the use of the ritual adopted by the said grand body at its conclave held at St. Louis in 1886—

AND WHEREAS, The Knights Templar of Virginia are with great unanimity heartily dissatisfied with the change of ritual, and believe that the introduction of the new ritual will greatly diminish the interest of Knights Templar in the work among us, who, by the use of many years, have become devoted to our beautiful old ritual, and while we

are submitting loyally to the orders of the Grand Encampment of the United States while in force; therefore, be it

Resolved., That our representatives to the next Grand Encampment be instructed to urge the repeal of the law adopting the new ritual of 1886, or to procure the passage of a law allowing each Grand Commandery to authorize its subordinate commanderies to use the ritual in use prior to the adoption of the new ritual of 1886, or the ritual adopted by the Grand Encampment of the United States at its session held in 1886, as may be preferred.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No report on correspondence.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JAMES LEE BECK, Lynchburg, elected Grand Commander.

Sir WILLIAM B. ISAACS, Richmond, re-elected Grand Recorder.

WASHINGTON.

FIRST annual conclave was held in the city of Seattle, commencing Friday, June 8, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

SIR HARRISON W. EAGAN, Grand Commander.

Sir THOMAS M. REED, Grand Recorder.

Four subordinate commanderies represented.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS

The Grand Commander addressed the Sir Knights as follows:

It is with profound gratitude to the Giver of all Good that I am permitted to greet you on this auspicious occasion, being the first annual conclave of this Grand Commandery.

The great Captain of our salvation has dealt very kindly and lovingly with us, in conducting us safely along life's highway to the close of our first templar year. If a single stone has fallen from the walls of our noble temple, the fact has not come to my knowledge. "The lines have fallen to us in pleasant places."

I rejoice in the privilege as well as the pleasant duty to congratulate you upon the favorable outlook for our beloved order. Prosperity and general good health seem to be the common heritage of our people in this part of our highly favored country.

Praise and devout thanksgiving should arise from all our hearts to our Heavenly Father who is the donor of all our blessings. God, our beneficent Creator, whose servants we are, has lavished his blessings upon us in great profusion; and hence, corresponding gratitude, like sweet incense, should arise from the altar of our hearts in grateful recognition of His tender mercies.

* * * * *

Our Grand Recorder, to whom I looked for assistance in procuring books, blanks, etc., which were necessary for the efficient working of my office, not only failed to procure them, but, some time during the holidays, removed from our jurisdiction, and therefore I have been deprived of his assistance.

APPOINTMENT OF GRAND RECORDER.

Of the appointment of a new Grand Recorder he says:

Sir Knight MURRAY having failed to resign the office of Grand Recorder before his departure, and having no law or precedent to which I could refer, to guide my action in the premises, and feeling that I could not get along without a Grand Recorder, I assumed the responsibility and appointed Sir Knight THOMAS M. REED, of Olympia, W. T., to fill out the unexpired term to which Sir Knight JOHN MURRAY had been elected. And on February 14 I sent Sir Knight REED a notice of his appointment, with a request and also with authority to act as such Grand Recorder, and after persistent effort on my part he finally, but very reluctantly, accepted the office. Since which time he has done all in his power to aid me in my work, and I take this opportunity to cordially thank him for accepting the office of Grand Recorder, as well as for the assistance he has rendered me.

DECISIONS.

The following question was asked of the Grand Commander, and answer returned thereto, as follows:

Previous to the meeting and organization of the Grand Commandery there was an application for the orders by a person who keeps a hotel in which there is a bar, from which, as I understand, intoxicating liquors are sold, in which, too, I understand, he is directly interested. Now under the resolution passed by the Grand Commandery

he could not be received as a Sir Knight. He and his friends now wish to withdraw the petition.

Under the law or code of statutes of the Grand Encampment, page 78, last paragraph, it says: "A petition for membership cannot be withdrawn when once received." Now we do not wish to injure him by having him blackballed. Is there any way that you can devise or recommend that we can get rid of balloting for him? If the application had not been put in before the passing of this resolution the way would be clear enough. Your answer to this communication is requested at an early day, as our regular meeting is on July 1.

Question. Whether the passing of these resolutions by the Grand Commandery does render the party ineligible and therefore removes the case from our jurisdiction?

Answer. The case you present for my consideration is a peculiar one, and the question you ask, growing out of it, is not easy of solution.

It is perfectly clear that, if the Grand Commandery had not passed the resolution to which you refer, your commandery would have to vote on the petition of the candidate. The law you quote settles that question. But the Grand Commandery having passed said resolution subsequent to your commandery receiving the petition, but prior to its being voted on, the question you suggest is pertinent, namely: "Whether the passing of those resolutions by the Grand Commandery does render the party ineligible, and therefore removes the case from our jurisdiction?" I answer that I think it does. The matter is not so clear to my mind as I would like to have it in order to render an intelligent decision, but with what light I have before me on the subject, my opinion is that the said petitioner is not eligible to take the orders, and therefore your commandery has no right to ballot on his petition, but that said petition should be returned to him.

THE RITUAL.

Of the ritual, the Grand Commander says:

Washington commandery, No. 1, of which I am a member, received a copy of our new ritual as approved by the Grand Encampment. I have given it a pretty careful examination, and I regret to say that it is by no means what I expected from that grand body. In my judgment, it is very much inferior to our old ritual. But, being promulgated by the Grand Encampment, I suppose it is the duty of this Grand Commandery to adopt it for use in this jurisdiction.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

We find this young jurisdiction has gone largely into the

grand representative system. We can but hope they will profit thereby.

NEW COMMANDERY.

Dispensation was granted for a new commandery at Ellensburg.

WORDS OF WARNING.

Under the heading of "a few words of warning," the Grand Commander says:

I would not speak *ex cathedra*, but occupying the honorable and responsible position in which your suffrages placed me, as the first Grand Commander of Knights Templar in this jurisdiction, I feel it to be my duty to call your attention to what I regard a menace to the future prosperity of our noble order in these United States.

There are some indications, if we rightly read a few of our masonic journals, that French masonry is making an effort to insinuate itself into some of our blue lodges in different parts of our country.

It is perhaps true that comparatively few persons professing atheistic or agnostic principles are making application for any of the orders or degrees of masonry, but you need not travel far to find those who are already members of the fraternity who not only avow agnostic and atheistic doctrines, but who have the effrontery, in the presence of brother masons, to scoff at the Holy Bible, and to entirely ignore or deny the existence of the Omnipic JEHOVAH, whom every mason is expected to adore.

Surely the time has come when the tocsin of alarm should be sounded. If the existence of God be denied, and the Bible—the great light of masonry—be discarded, what have we left on which to erect our glorious temple? If these be thrown aside as "worn out superstitions," what mean our solemn ceremonies? Yea, more, what consummate nonsense to perform them at all.

The idea of an atheist or an agnostic being a member of a masonic body is a huge monstrosity. Take away the essential "landmarks" of our ancient and honorable institution, and I ask again: On what does its foundation rest? Nothing but the drifting sands of infidelity.

It is high time—as the divine oracles teach—that "The axe be laid unto the root of the tree, that every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit be hewn down, and cast into the fire."

How a man can so stultify his conscience as to knock at our doors for admission, with professions of loyalty to the cardinal principles of our order on his lips, and a lie in his heart, is beyond the ken of my philosophy.

But I have been asked the question: "May not a man, after having joined the order, by scientific investigation and the acquirement of greater knowledge, change his belief respecting our doctrines?" I answer, yes; that is possible. "What, then, should he do?" My answer is unqualified and emphatic: *get out of the order at once*; and I say more: *if he is honest he will do it.*

It is just as reasonable that an infidel be permitted to minister at the white altars of a Christian church as that an atheist or an agnostic be retained within the hallowed precincts of our grand institution.

"But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak."

Then let us go on in our high and holy mission, bearing aloft the banner of Christian knighthood; faithfully performing our vows; doing the work which our hands find to do; ever remembering that our grand and chivalric order is founded upon the Christian religion and the practice of Christian virtues. Thus putting our sublime principles into practice, we will let our light shine before men, that they, seeing our good works, will be constrained to glorify our Father who is in heaven.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The following reports from special committees were accepted and adopted:

We, your committee appointed to inquire into the rights of officers *pro tempore* to vote, would report as follows:

In order for an officer *pro tempore* to have the right to vote in this Grand Commandery he must hold an authenticated certificate of proxy from the officer whose station he may be filling, and must be a member of said officer's commandery at time of service.

* * * * *

Your committee to whom was referred the matter of tactics and drill, would report that we have diligently inspected the various tactics now in use, and while finding many good points in each, yet in our judgment the tactics compiled by Sir H. B. GRANT is the best suited for our purpose, and your committee would recommend its adoption by this Grand Commandery.

UNIFORM.

We congratulate our young sister on having so soon agreed upon a uniform, and hope nothing will occur to prevent its permanent adoption.

OFFICERS ELECTED

Sir ALFRED L. PALMER, Seattle, elected Grand Commander.

Sir THOMAS M. REED, Olympia, re-elected Grand Recorder.

WEST VIRGINIA.

FOURTEENTH annual conclave was held in the city of Huntington, commencing May 9, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir ALEXANDER PARKS, Grand Commander.

Sir R. C. DUNNINGTON, Grand Recorder.

Nine subordinate commanderies represented. Four Past Grand Commanders present.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander gives a history of the doings of the order within his jurisdiction the past year, and says:

I extend you greeting to this our fourteenth annual conclave, and do so with a heart full of thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for the many blessings and mercies bestowed upon us during the past year, and in again permitting us to assemble with unbroken ranks, and again for His inestimable gift to us of His only Son, our Lord and Savior JESUS CHRIST, our Mediator and Redeemer, who suffered the pains of that cruel and ignominious death upon the cross to provide a way of salvation to our fallen race. We, as templars, naturally turn our thoughts to these evidences of the love of our Heavenly Father, and the gratitude we owe to our blessed Lord, because of the fact that we are on the eve of the day set apart by Christians to commemorate his ascension to heaven where he now sits as our Mediator and Intercessor

RECOMMENDATION.

He recommends the observance of either Good Friday, Easter or Ascension Day, and says:

I would suggest that at least one of these days should be observed

by the templars throughout this jurisdiction. The days set apart to commemorate these solemn and sacred events cannot too often be brought to our attention. Their observance by our order is eminently proper, and serve more strikingly to remind us of the more prominent events upon which our order of Christian knighthood is founded, and inculcate in us feelings of gratitude and thankfulness for this most ample means for our salvation. I would recommend that LILLEY's, or some other book of services, be adopted, and services be conducted in the asylum of each commandery, or, if desirable, publicly in some church, on any one of the days above named.

GOOD DECISION.

The Grand Commander decided that a Sir Knight, then Generalissimo of a Commandery, but a non-resident of the State, could not be legally elected and installed Eminent Commander. Good law.

PROCEEDINGS.

Proceedings of the Grand Commandery are local in their character.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No report on correspondence.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir JERE A. MILLER, elected Grand Commander.

Sir R. C. DUNNINGTON, Fairmont, re-elected Grand Recorder.

WISCONSIN.

THIRTIETH annual conclave was held in the city of Milwaukee, commencing October 9, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir M. B. RUNDLE, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN W. LAFLIN, Grand Recorder.

Twenty subordinate commanderies represented. Three Past Grand Commanders present.

OUR HUGH.

Very Eminent Sir HUGH McCURDY, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment of the United States, being announced in waiting, the lines were formed, and the distinguished frater was received and introduced by Eminent Sir A. H. WAGNER, Grand Generalissimo.

REMARKS OF WELCOME BY GRAND COMMANDER RUNDLE.

VERY EMINENT SIR—I give you most cordial welcome to this the thirtieth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of Wisconsin. I extend on behalf of Wisconsin templars a most hearty welcome to you, not only as the representative of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, but also in recognition of your many excellent qualities as a man, and of your high standing as a distinguished and loyal mason.

RESPONSE OF SIR KNIGHT M'CURDY.

Right Eminent Sir and Fraters:

You have little need of assurance that I am glad to once more stand in this presence, where before now, on many happy and fraternal occasions, I have had equal cause to render thanks.

After going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down it, I clasp again the hands of fraters from whom I have received much that is good to remember.

I never enter a presence like this without a feeling of exultation and a mellowing of the heart that gives me a new and gentle faith in the innate goodness of human nature and the unspeakable value of honest human love.

There is little that remains unsaid concerning masonry. The best thought of the best minds has long been directed to the work of adorning and rendering impressive and profound its ceremonial workings. There is hardly to be found a more elevating and inspiring literature than that of masonry. Repeat that sentence with special emphasis for particular application to templary, and you will catch my estimate of the companions who travel the road which leads from the Red Cross to Knights Templar and Knights of Malta. I think every frater here may agree with the eminent Crusader who declared that the virtues upon which our masonic foundation rests are all practiced in the life, conduct and conversation of true and valiant knights; and that the distinguishing characteristics of our magnanimous order—chivalry, unfailing courtesy and sincere regard for woman and her claims—which animate the

hearts and inspire the acts of Knights Templar everywhere, are brought into due prominence.

Templary is masonry, of course, but masonry that has been, so to say, put through the refining process. I say this not in disparagement of the blue lodge, wherein are inculcated the fundamental principles by which we, as masons, square our lives; but there are grades and grades in all of man's relations in life. The better templars we are, the better masons. It has been sagaciously said that templarism tends to teach masons to be more than masons; that while masonry plants the flower of brotherly love in every mason's heart, brings down king and baron to the level of the weak and humble, and binds man to man in mutual dependence, with never a thought of caste or creed, purse or pride obtruding. Templar masonry is meant to do more. I take it that we intensified our vows as a specially binding covenant with God; and I suppose there is no frater here who would dispute the deep significance or the immutable truth of the faith which has singularly blessed the world for more than eighteen centuries. Templary "teaches sublime faith in never-ending happiness for all the good and pure, and is anchored to belief in the efficacy of the great sacrifice which brightens the star of hope that heaven sets above the cradle of every babe."

We must be more than human could we claim perfection even in our asylums. Not all of us are worthy. There was a **JUDAS** among the twelve and a **BENEDICT ARNOLD** among the Colonial patriots; but I think if a roll-call of the world's Knights Templar could be had we should find a relatively small number of recreants. There is no doubt of the immediate and practical influence of the order in the direction of ideal manhood. There is in it also enough of the poetic principle to give it fascination, and enough of the dramatic element to make it enduringly impressive. In other words, it is the highest object-teaching that man has reached; in proof of which assertion we need only to point to the unquestioned fact that no templar ever can forget the solemn emotions that took possession of him during his passage through the ceremonial labyrinth.

I am sure I voice the conviction of the Grand Master, by whom I am deputed to stand in his place to-day, in saying that we must guard against a tendency to drift from our moorings. If there be any one thing to which we are doubly bound in honor in fraternity, in the very principles on which we feed and thrive, it is to perform without ostentation the office of the good Samaritan whenever and wherever we find a bruised and suffering brother lying helpless in the dust of highway life. You remember the scornful Levite who passed a wounded and sore one much in need of succor. There should not be even a careless, much

less a scornful Levite amongst us. We must not lose sight of the fact that no other human institution so blazes in the eye of the world as ours. No other order so much and so constantly excites the admiration of the profane. Imitation, which has shrewdly been defined as the sincerest flattery, always pursues us. But those ephemera which resemble us in outward seeming only, can do us no injury. The avenues to our asylums are now too well guarded to permit the unqualified to enter, and we may devote our best endeavors to the further and higher refinement of that which we already have and are.

This grand body has joyfully passed its quarter centennial and is well started on its second period of prosperity and honor. In its membership it is the very fibre of that which is best and of sweetest fame in this jurisdiction, whose beautiful and busy metropolis gives us hospitable shelter during this conclave.

The Grand Commandery of Wisconsin could not possibly light upon a happier future than that which I, with all my heart, invoke for her out of the infinite bounty of the Grand Master of the Universe.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions were made by the Grand Commander during the year:

Question. Is it necessary to have written certificates from lodge and chapter with petitions for orders when it is known to myself or some knight present that the applicant is a member of both in good standing?

Answer. No.

Question. Can I be permitted to hold a special conclave of my commandery to confer orders only, at some place other than that designated in charter.

Answer. No. The code of statutes provides that a commandery can hold its conclaves only at the place designated in its dispensation or charter.

HIGHLY PROSPEROUS.

The Grand Commander reports the order in a prosperous condition, and a healthy and vigorous growth in membership.

"TWINS" ONLY.

Dispensations were granted for the formation of two new commanderies—one at Ashland, and the other at Waukesha.

We congratulate the Sir Knights of these two new commanderies, and wish them a prosperous and happy future.

ALWAYS COURTEOUS.

We quote the following from the proceedings:

Sir Knight A. H. WAGNER, Eminent Commander of Wisconsin Commandery, extended a cordial invitation to the grand officers and representatives in attendance upon the Grand Commandery to visit Wisconsin Commandery this evening, and witness the conferring of the Order of the Temple.

Sir WAGNER was always doing the polite thing when in this State, and we are sure the Grand Commandery was well repaid for their visit to Wisconsin Commandery.

A. V. H. CARPENTER.

Past Grand Commander BENZENBERG, after some very feeling remarks, submitted the following resolution relative to Past Grand Commander A. V. H. CARPENTER:

WHEREAS, On account of a serious affliction of the eyes, Past Grand Commander CARPENTER has been unable to be present during this conclave. Therefore,

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery hereby extend to our esteemed and beloved Past Grand Commander their knightly greeting, most earnest sympathy and cordial good will, expressing the hope that he may experience an early, complete and permanent recovery, thus again securing to his friends and fraters the pleasure of his warm and manly greeting, and assuring him that the absence of his earnest and valuable counsel in our deliberations was sincerely regretted by all the Sir Knights.

Which was unanimously adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Wm. C. SWAIN submits the report of thirty-four sister Grand Commanderies, Michigan for 1888 among the number, and in his opening says:

We present our sixth annual report. At the time of commencing to print, an unusual number of the proceedings are absent from our table, some of which we hope to receive in season to include in our review.

The first in the list, Alabama, usually promptly on hand, is among the absentees, probably on account of the change in Grand Recorders, necessitated by the death of DANIEL SAYRE, who passed to his reward on the eighth of April, at the advanced age of eighty years. He had

been Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge for thirty years and Grand Recorder for seventeen, during all but two years of which he had also written the reports on correspondence. Those of us who have read his genial and courteous reports will not soon forget him.

CALIFORNIA.

Under his review of California he says of a decision of the Grand Commander of that jurisdiction:

We run against an obstruction in his first decision, as to whether knights who were not members of any chapter, and had not applied within six months for affiliation, were in good standing in the commandery. The Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of that jurisdiction have what we consider an unmasonic regulation, that a non-affiliated brother or companion shall "be deemed to occupy the same position as one suspended for non-payment of dues, and shall not be entitled to, nor be the recipient of, any of the rights, privileges or benefits of masonry." Upon this, he decides that the brother or companion would not be in good standing in his commandery. Let us look at the other side. If I go from Wisconsin, where, though a non-affiliate, I am recognized as a mason in good standing, to California, the lodge or chapter there has the right to say that I shall not be admitted to their bodies, but it has no right whatever, nor can it obtain any right, to say that I am not in good masonic standing outside of the lodge, or to debar me from masonic intercourse with my brethren. And the code says explicitly, "By merely becoming a non-affiliate in a lodge or chapter, a templar does not lose his standing in the commandery." Here is another jurisdiction to be placed by the side of Iowa, and declared in rebellion.

IOWA.

The review of Iowa for 1887 occupies much space in this report, and we give in full Sir SWAIN'S concluding remarks under the head of Iowa and the new ritual:

The unfortunate complications which have arisen in Iowa are too well known to need rehearsal. In our review of that jurisdiction, on page 24, we gave a synopsis of its action on the new ritual. On the 21st of March, Grand Master ROOME issued an edict to the Grand Commander, CLARK VARNUM, declaring the action of the Grand Commander null and void, pre emptorily ordering him to reissue the ritual to the subordinate commanderies, and that from the time of such reissue they use and strictly conform to said rituals, and none other; and in a second communication, dated April 27th, gave him until the 10th of May to comply,

failing in which, he threatened him with action "necessary to enforce the authority of the Grand Encampment." The Grand Commander responded, claiming that he was not responsible for the action of his grand body—was not even present when it was taken, and that the order should have been directed to the Grand Commandery itself. The Grand Master responds that "the action of the Grand Commandery of Iowa being null and void, and having been so declared by me, requires neither revision nor other action by the body." The order not being complied with, on the 28th of May, the Grand Master issued an edict, declaring "the Grand Commandery of Iowa, and all Sir Knights in its obedience, in a state of disloyalty and rebellion, contrary to their vows as Knights Templar," etc., and interdicting "all templar intercourse between the Grand Commandery of Iowa and all Sir Knights in its obedience, and the loyal Knights Templar of the United States."

The Grand Commander, in response, issues a protest, asking that judgment be withheld, and giving his reasons for considering the action illegal.

We are pained and grieved beyond measure at the course which has been taken. It is, of course, unnecessary for us to say, that, in what follows, we are expressing our own individual opinion, and not that of our Grand Commandery, which, if it acts at all, will speak for itself. The order of the Grand Master has been promulgated in this jurisdiction, and, of course, obeyed.

First, relative to the action of Iowa, we do not think its claim that the new ritual was not legally adopted by the Grand Encampment, as a matter of law, has any foundation. The claim is based on the statement that the changes in the ritual were not published in the summons for the conclave of the Grand Encampment. As a matter of fact, the ritual had already been introduced, and referred to a committee, to report, with changes at this session. If the claim was true, it would follow equally, that a proposed amendment to the constitution, to be legally adopted, must be adopted precisely as proposed. To in any way amend the amendment, when it came up for action, would be to nullify it. And we do not agree with Iowa, that the Grand Master had no power to interfere with the Grand Commandery. Section 13 of the constitution expressly gives him that power.

But, admitting all that, we think the Grand Master's action exceedingly arbitrary, and ill-judged. As far as the ritual itself is concerned, fully three-fourths of the jurisdictions are dissatisfied with it, and desire its amendment or abolition entirely. Tennessee went so far as to take the same course as Iowa, but afterward rescinded its action. Maine and Massachusetts not only want to see it amended, but particularly con-

demned the publicity given it, making it a part of the literature of the country; as Grand Commander VARNUM says, the book has been offered for sale by newsboys on railroad trains. But, Iowa did not refuse to adopt it. She simply postponed action until after the next triennial conclave. Of course, technically, this was a violation of the edict. But there is scarcely a jurisdiction in the country but has some action in contravention of the code. We have pointed out, in our report, several of them. Maryland's Grand Commander allows the old ritual to be used until new Eminent Commanders are elected to learn the work. If it can be postponed for nine months, why not for eighteen? We hear of no notice by the Grand Master of the violations above referred to. The Grand Commander of Mississippi even refuses to promulgate the edict of suspension. His head is still on his shoulders.

As Grand Commander VARNUM says: "No good ever came of edicts, orders or declarations of non-intercourse. They are invariably promotive of injury to any fraternity founded wholly upon mutual engagements, reciprocal ties, disinterested friendship, unbounded hospitality, brotherly love, and the Christian religion." It was but a short time until the session of the Grand Commandery, and we think no harm could have resulted from the short postponement of the edict.

We have questioned the necessity and expediency of the edict; in the form it took, we doubt if he had any right to issue it. He might have the right to suspend the Grand Commander and Grand Commandery from their functions; but what right had he to suspend in one breath, without trial, thirty-six hundred innocent templars, who had violated no law, who couldn't adopt the new ritual if they wished to, because they hadn't got it? By all masonic law, everywhere, commandery, chapter and lodge, no punishment can be inflicted without due trial. An officer can be suspended from the functions of his office, but he cannot be deprived of his right to masonic or templar intercourse, without a hearing. Yet, here is a sweeping edict, which, without a shadow of a trial or hearing, says we shall have no templar intercourse with thirty-six hundred of our innocent brethren!

We do not think this trouble will last long, but we are afraid it will leave bitterness behind it. We hope our fraters of Iowa will, in a dignified way, at the coming session, rescind their action. The next session of the Grand Encampment, will probably remove the grievance complained of, and it is not long to wait. And we equally hope Grand Master ROOME will take a sober second thought, and also recede, calmly awaiting the healing influence of time upon whatever errors may have been committed.

MICHIGAN.

Of Michigan he says:

The first thing to claim attention in the volume before us is the picture of the Grand Commander. We won't say it is adorned, because he is a good-looking man, and deserves better work. We are with BERRY in this, and would like to see a clean-cut engraving or nothing. This reconciles us to the regulation in two of our grand bodies; which we had always deemed absurd, that we shan't put in the picture of a living man, until he proves to us that he is dead.

The Grand Commander aforesaid is THOMAS H. WILLIAMS, and he gave a good address, but not till after "Our HUGH" had prepared the way, by one of his characteristic eloquent speeches. He issued an order that no other ritual than that of the Grand Encampment should be used, received protests against it from five subordinate commanderies; but convinced them that whether they liked it or not, it was the law, and must be obeyed.

He quotes what we said of Sir DELAP's criticism of the Grand Encampment, and says that although not flattering, it might be worse.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir CHANDLER P. CHAPMAN, Madison, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN W. LAFLIN, Milwaukee, re-elected Grand Recorder.

WYOMING.

FIRST annual conclave was held in the city of Cheyenne, commencing Wednesday, July 11, A. D. 1888, A. O. 770.

Sir TRUMAN B. HICKS, Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN K. JEFFREY, Grand Recorder.

Three subordinate commanderies represented.

GRAND COMMANDER'S ADDRESS.

The Grand Commander, in his address, says:

And, first, permit me to congratulate you upon the successful result of the efforts made by the Knights Templar of Wyoming to organize this Grand Commandery. By virtue of the authority courteously granted in advance by the Grand Encampment of the United States, we have gained three years time in reaching the goal of our ambition. Standing among the Grand Commanderies of the several States and Territories, equal in rank and station, though not in numbers, it is not strange that we should exult over the attainment of autonomy. Even as the people in a Territorial form of government rejoice upon their admission to the sisterhood of States, so may we rejoice. But with the new honor and pride comes increased responsibility. Into our hands is committed the weal of Christian knighthood in this young empire. And upon our efforts must the cause of templarism depend for increase in numbers, for extension of charity and Christian benevolence, as well as deepening devotion to the craft in the heart of every Sir Knight. The generations of our noble order that will follow will judge us by the breadth and depth and strength of the foundations we are now laying. Our record is made in moments—it is read in years. Let us so strive that the commendations of the valiant and magnanimous Sir Knights who shall crown the superstructure of the edifice, by us just begun, will justly approve and commend our work. If the realization of the sense of increased responsibility will invoke and impel renewed individual action on the part of every Sir Knight in this jurisdiction, then indeed will our brethren of the craft throughout the United States rejoice that they honored us with sovereignty, and I feel that I speak with the assurance of every Sir Knight in the Territory when I say that never shall the Grand Commandery of Wyoming be found recreant to her trust, insensible to her devotions or lacking in Christian fortitude.

PERFECT HARMONY.

He gives an account of his doings for the few short months in which he has presided over the Grand Commandery, and in concluding his address says:

Sir Knights, with a feeling of pride I hand over to my successor, to be chosen by you at this conclave, the badge with which you have honored me; pride in the fact that we have in Wyoming a Grand Commandery organized and running in perfect harmony; pride in its promise of becoming the equal in knightly conduct and templar consequence of any Grand Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment, and pride in the knowledge that during my short administration nothing in our proceedings has been attempted except that which looked alone to the good of this Grand Commandery to the exclusion of all per-

sonal or sectional interests. Thanking you all sincerely for your earnest support, and assuring you of my desire to at all times assist to my utmost ability in all your future proceedings, I now place in your hands the proceedings of this conclave and await your bidding.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Grand Recorder acknowledges the receipt of several proceedings of Grand Commanderies, including those of Michigan for 1888.

LOCAL IN CHARACTER.

Business local in its character.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT.

Sir JOHN A. BAIRD, chairman of the committee on correspondence, submits the following:

Your committee on correspondence is deprived of the pleasure of making a report at this time, for several reasons. (1) Our term is but four months long, covering the time from the inauguration of the grand officers to this conclave; (2) as our Grand Commandery has been comparatively unknown, we have received the proceedings from very few of the Grand Commanderies of the States, and we do not wish to present but a partial review; (3) our innate modesty (so characteristic of our profession) causes us to hesitate in putting our lance in rest in the skilled tournament of review. We have observed that there are some trenchant spears among the reviewers, and the noviate who can successfully escape a thrust or two is indeed fortunate, if not skillful. The system of reviewing proceedings is so instructive and beneficial that we would warmly advise all fraters to read the reports. Heretofore these truths have not been apparent to us because of our being outside the brotherhood of Grand Commanderies, and we received no reports. Now that we stand equal in honor, if not in station, with our elders, we hope that our reports hereafter may be as complete in this department as our Grand Commandery is complete in all other respects.

FRATERNALLY RECOGNIZED.

We call the attention of our sister Wyoming to the special report of the committee on correspondence, found in our proceedings, from which she will see we were not unmindful of her at our session held a few days ago, at which time she was fully and fraternally acknowledged as

an equal among us, and welcomed to the sisterhood of Grand Commanderies.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Sir WILLIAM H. SMITH, Rawlins, elected Grand Commander.

Sir JOHN K. JEFFREY, Cheyenne, re-elected Grand Recorder.

CLOSING.

We are satisfied that brevity will show our wit in not inflicting a long closing to our already "more than enough" report.

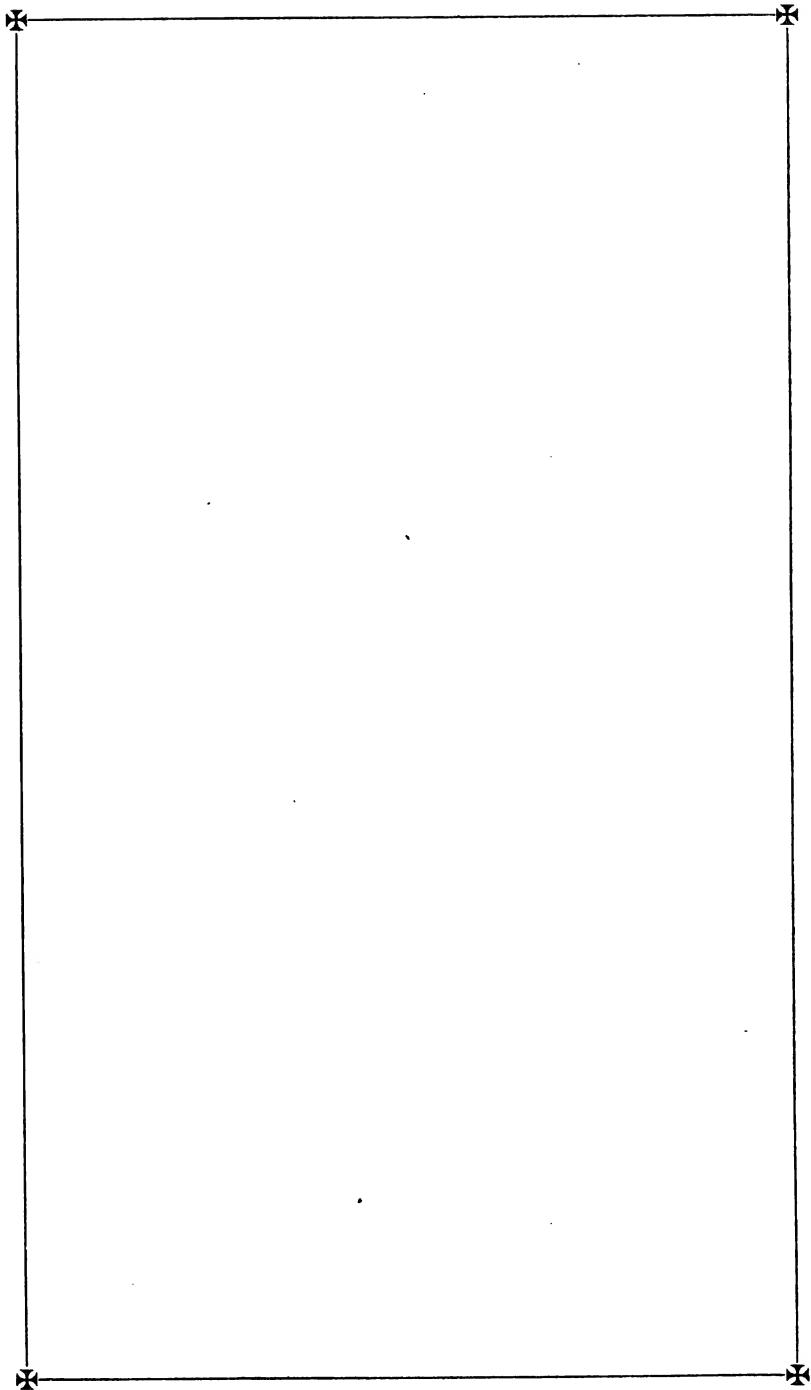
We greet you, one and all, and commend you to the watchful eye of Him "who careth for us more than we deserve."

May every joy be yours and prosperity attend you, is the parting words of

Courteously yours,

WILLIAM P. INNES,
For the Committee.









UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



3 9015 06700 3759

1889.

OFFICERS OF THE

GRAND COMMANDERY

K. T., MICHIGAN.

NAME OF OFFICER.	ADDRESS.	OFFICE.
SIR JOHN A. GEROW.....	Marshall.....	Grand Commander.....
SIR WILLIAM G. DOTY.....	Ann Arbor.....	Dep. Grand Commander.....
SIR EDWARD C. SMITH.....	Pontiac.....	Grand Generalissimo.....
SIR JEFFERSON S. CONOVER.....	Coldwater.....	Grand Captain General.....
SIR AND REV. FRANCIS A. BLADES.....	Detroit.....	Grand Prelate.....
SIR HENRY L. ANTHONY.....	Sturgis.....	Grand Senior Warden.....
SIR CHARLES H. POMEROY.....	Bay City.....	Grand Junior Warden.....
SIR H. SHAW NOBLE.....	Monroe.....	Grand Treasurer.....
SIR *WILLIAM P. INNES, <i>r. c. c.</i>	Grand Rapids.....	Grand Recorder.....
SIR WILLIAM E. JEWETT.....	Adrian.....	Grand Standard Bearer.....
SIR EDWARD D. WHEELER.....	Manistee.....	Grand Sword Bearer.....
SIR ALBERT STILES.....	Jackson.....	Grand Warder.....
SIR ALEXANDER MCGREGOR.....	Detroit.....	Grand Sentinel.....

*Chairman Committee on Correspondence.